

2009's BEST BUDGET BITES

Got two \$20s and an appetite? That's enough for
12 of the city's most delicious eats **pages 18-19**

Friday
DECEMBER 18, 2009

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

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to break up? **42**

'Basterds' score
SAG nods **46**

2do

»Ann-Marie Akin



To shop

Get discounts from area shops, entertainment and refreshments from 6-10 p.m. Friday during Late-er Night Andersonville. Visit andersonville.org for participating shops and event schedule.

To give

Visit restaurant.com/feeditforward and give a free \$10 gift certificate to as many as 30 different people every day until Christmas.

To listen

Catch a free concert by singer-songwriter Ann-Marie Akin at 7 p.m. Friday at the SGI-USA Chicago Cultural Center (1455 S. Wabash Ave.).

AYE, AYE CAPTION

txtable



Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in RedEye. Text the word "**caption**" followed by your brief caption and your name to **87708**. Good luck!

MONDAY'S WINNING CAPTION »

"Am I getting ... hey wait I AM getting a parking ticket ... WAIT STOPI!"
—Joe Fulham



38 28

TODAY'S FORECAST

Rain+ snow = Slushy, gross, wet, nasty



SAT.
33 28

Snow's over!
For now



SUN.
32 19

Oh good, it's back



MON.
26 12

Clouds! Breeze! Cold!



TUE.
23 9

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HEAD-TO-HEAD

UNITED STATES PUTS UP \$100 BILLION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN The U.S. and China took steps Thursday toward a broad agreement that could be sealed by President Obama and Premier Wen Jiabao when they arrive at the flagging U.N. climate talks.

Fresh off a plane from Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the U.S. would join others in raising \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help poorer nations cope with global warming.

That's a "good first step," China's vice foreign minister, He Yafei, said later.

Clinton made the offer contingent on reaching a broader agreement at the 193-nation conference that covers "transparency," a reference to U.S. insistence that China allow some international review of its actions controlling emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Going some way to meet U.S. demands, the Chinese official told reporters that Beijing was ready for "dialogue and cooperation" on its emissions actions "that is not intrusive, that does not infringe on China's sovereignty."

The diplomatic duel between Washington and Beijing has marked the two weeks of climate talks, which ground to a near-halt Wednesday as a chronic rich-poor divide flared into the open again, dimming the hopes of the Danish hosts for a comprehensive deal—a preliminary framework for a formal treaty next year on combating climate change.

Environment ministers, having taken over from lower-level negotiators, got down to the final hours of talks Thursday in hopes of producing partial agreements to put before Obama, Wen and more than 110 other leaders at Friday's summit.

Such accords might include the issues raised by Clinton at a news conference here: long-term goals for financing climate aid and monitoring of emissions controls.



Delegates walk Monday outside the plenary session hall at the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen. AP

NOTABLE	QUOTABLE	CONTROVERSIAL
This represents the first time the U.S. government has publicly cited a figure in discussions in Copenhagen over long-term financing to help poorer countries build sea walls against rising oceans, cope with unusual drought and deal with other impacts of climate change, while also financing renewable-energy and similar projects.	'\$100 billion is a lot. It can have tangible effects.' SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON	The \$100 billion, a number first suggested by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, falls short of what experts say would be needed. The World Bank and others estimate the long-term climate costs for poorer nations, from 2020 or so, likely would total hundreds of billions of dollars a year.



BlackBerry says temporary e-mail glitch has been resolved

Associated Press

TORONTO BlackBerry users in North America faced delays in receiving e-mail on their devices Thursday.

The company that makes the popular messaging phones, Research In Motion Ltd., later said technicians isolated and

resolved the issue. The company said it is investigating the cause.

RIM said users still were able to make phone calls, browse the Internet and send and receive text messages. RIM didn't say how many users were affected or how long the outage lasted.

RIM's system is relatively reliable, but its central-

ized structure means that any problems can affect millions of users.

In February 2008, an upgrade to the wireless system apparently caused a three-hour service disruption. In April 2008, a minor software upgrade crashed the system. A software glitch also caused a smaller disruption in September 2008.

Check, please!

On Friday's menu: weird restaurant news. AP

Hooters field trip

An Arizona music teacher whose students performed at a presidential inauguration event is on administrative leave after taking 40 high school students to a Hooters restaurant. Paradise Valley school district spokeswoman Judi Willis says choir director Mary Segall accompanied the students to a performance in downtown Phoenix last week, and during the outing, they ate lunch at Hooters.

Willis says Segall explained that the restaurant, known for its waitresses' somewhat revealing attire, was the only place that could accommodate a group of that size.



Tat discount

An Ohio restaurant is offering lifetime discounts to people willing to make a display of their love for grilled cheese sandwiches.

Melt Bar & Grilled in the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood specializes in spins on the grilled cheese and says anyone with a tattoo of the classic sandwich will get 25 percent off.

The restaurant has hooked up for the promotion with a tattoo shop, which is offering its own discount on grilled cheese designs.



Pot on the menu

Any slacker living over his parents' garage can make pot brownies. Gourmet chefs are taking the art of cooking with marijuana to a higher level.

In Denver, a new medical-marijuana shop called Ganja Gourmet serves cannabis-infused specialties such as pizza, hummus and lasagna. Across town in the Mile-High City, a Caribbean restaurant plans to offer classes on how to make multi-course meals with pot in every dish.



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Holiday eco tips, with a bow on top

Is it the gift that counts or the thought that counts? Well, on RedEye's "Practically Green" blog, it's the gift *wrap* that counts. Here are some of RedEye's reader comments about eco-friendly holidays, plus more chatter from our blogs about staying friends with your exes, CTA drivers using cell phones and more.

Recycle the holidays

Junk mail can be a good source too ("Who needs gift wrap?" Practically Green, Dec. 15). Last night I wrapped using a free map that came in a request for donation packet. Unsentimental cards from banks and real estate brokers can be cut to use as gift tags.

—POST EMILY POST ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/PRACTICALLYGREEN

Put it in a bag

I am planning on buying some of the Jewel reusable shopping bags that have Chicago scenes, like the Bean, or Buckingham Fountain or Sears Tower, or for the guys, Wrigley Field, Soldier Field or the Hawks on them, and putting gifts in there. They then have a bag for their groceries for the future.

—STAMPYLISA ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/PRACTICALLYGREEN

Give CTA operators a break

This is what drives me crazy. For some reason, CTA operators are never allowed to take a break ("CTA rider: Driver used phone, filed nails," Going Public, Dec. 16). Get to the end of the line, and want to go to the bathroom? Well, you're just a jerk then. I wish more people could understand that bus operators are people too. Just because our breaks don't look as nice as yours doesn't mean we don't occasionally deserve a chance to relax. You know you do at your job.

—CGT ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/GOINGPUBLIC

X factor is respect

I have two [ex] boyfriends that I still call good friends, which I think mainly has to do with the fact that they didn't trample on my feelings when we were together ("Can you stay friends with an ex?" Accidentally Sexy, Dec. 14). ... You can't really be friends with someone if they disregarded you to begin with. Unfortunately, that's an issue I'm having with a current ex; possibly the most disrespectful breakup (twice) that I've ever dealt with.

—JEN ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/SEXY

Can't gamers just get along?

I've been on both sides of the gaming field, PC and console ("PC gaming vs. console: Which is better?" Geek to Me, Dec. 15). PC feels more hard core for me, while the console is more convenient. Either way, we all should just be gamers together. One just feels better for others.

—DREAM ON REDEYECHICAGO.COM/GEEKTOME


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Preview Day Friday, December 18, shop most stores 7 a.m. – midnight except 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. Aurora Northgate, Circle Center, DeKalb, Evergreen, Ford City, Michigan City, Northfield Square, River Oaks, St. Charles, Woodmar; 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Furniture Galleries; 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Gateway.

Saturday, December 19, shop most stores 6 a.m. – midnight except 6 a.m. – 11 p.m. Aurora Northgate, Circle Center, DeKalb, Evergreen, Ford City, Michigan City, Northfield Square, River Oaks, St. Charles, Woodmar; 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Furniture Galleries; Gateway closed.



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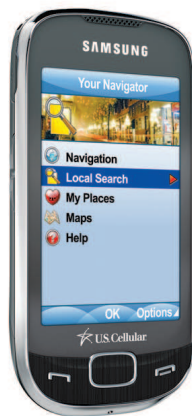
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chicago

Prosecutors: Car sale sparked fatal collision

Chicago Tribune

Prosecutors say Tyrice Pryor sparked a tragic feud when he bought a car this week.

Someone else who wanted the vehicle became so angry he smashed the windows out of the car.

The argument quickly escalated until the two began hitting each other's vans and Pryor lost control, killing a passing bicyclist, prosecutors said in court.

Pryor, 21, of the 6100 block of North Hamilton Avenue, was charged with murder

early Thursday and ordered held on \$2 million bail.

"It's stupid—someone lost their life because of these two idiots," said Edward Ziemba, 48, whose nephew Jepson Livingston was killed.

At about 12:20 p.m., Pryor drove his van to a parking lot on Pulaski Road near Diversey Avenue, prosecutors said. The man who had wanted the car pulled up and the two began arguing again, authorities said.

"The argument escalated and [Pryor] struck the side of the individual's vehicle with his van," prosecutors said in court. "The individual exited the lot, made a U-turn and bumped [Pryor's] van. The individual then drove off, attempting to end the conflict."

But Pryor sped after the van and struck it from behind, prosecutors said. The impact sent the other van crashing into an auto body shop while Pryor's van hit a pole, then Livingston on his bike, according to prosecutors.

Livingston was thrown as high as the overhead utility lines, police said. He later died at a nearby hospital.

Court records show Pryor was on parole for a conviction in a 2005 burglary. He pleaded guilty and received probation, but the following year was convicted of violating the terms; a judge sentenced Pryor to four years in prison.

He was paroled in February 2008, but then arrested six months later and charged with felony marijuana possession. According to records, he pleaded guilty and received probation. Then in July he was charged with violating the terms of that sentence. That case is still pending, as is a misdemeanor battery case.



Pryor



Accidents at 95th Street and Cicero Avenue in Oak Lawn increased after red-light cameras were installed in 2007, state records show.

WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE

Drivers see red

Accidents rose in half of suburban intersections with traffic cameras

Chicago Tribune

If improved safety is the goal of red-light cameras, then it is a mission largely unaccomplished for the first crop of suburbs that raced to install the devices after they became legal in 2006, according to state data.

Accidents rose—in some cases, significantly—at half the 14 suburban intersections outfitted with traffic cameras by the end of 2007, the data show. The number of crashes fell at just five of those intersections after cameras went in, while two others showed little change.

The most striking results come from southwest suburban Oak Lawn, which in September 2007 switched on cameras at Cicero Avenue and 95th Street.

In 2006, before cameras, that intersection was the scene of one broadside crash—the dangerous type of collision that cameras are said to be most aimed at reducing. By 2008, with cameras, the total of broadsides had risen to five. Overall, the number of

WHAT ABOUT THE CITY?

The suburban crash numbers, compiled by the Illinois Department of Transportation from local police reports, reflect a similar accident trend as that found in state data on city intersections with cameras. The Tribune reported last month that IDOT records showed collisions either increasing or holding steady at nearly 60 percent of the 47 city intersections equipped with red-light cameras in 2006 or 2007.

The city keeps a parallel set of crash statistics for its camera-monitored intersections, and it shows collisions typically decreasing after cameras are installed. City and state officials could not explain why their crash numbers are so different. **TRIBUNE**

crashes of all types rose from 34 in 2006 to 44 in 2008, according to state data.

Roger Pawlowski, a division chief at the Oak Lawn Police Department, said the benefits of red-light cameras can't always be

extrapolated from crash statistics.

"Some of the things are unmeasurable," said Pawlowski, arguing that drivers are more careful when they know cameras are near.

As for the rising accident toll, Pawlowski said: "I would have to see the stats for '09 to see if this is a trend or not. We're supposed to re-evaluate the installations every year anyway to see if they're having a positive effect."

The cameras, which generate \$100 tickets for red-light violators, have been the focus of growing controversy.

Municipal officials and camera companies insist they are installed only with safety in mind, but critics dismiss them as money-raising gimmicks that can lead to more accidents. Many traffic engineers swear by the cameras as a proven safety tool, but only if placed at dangerous intersections where other remedies are not working.

One thing seems clear, however. If cameras work as advertised, accidents should drop.



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Man shot in head in Irving Park

A 23-year-old man was killed Wednesday afternoon in what Chicago police said was an apparent gang-related shooting in Irving Park. Luis Flores was sitting in a vehicle with five other people around 4 p.m. on the 2900 block of West Irving Park Road when a gunman approached and opened fire, police said. Flores, 23, of the 4400 block of North Sawyer Avenue, was shot in the head and taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Survey looks inside City Hall work culture

Chicago city workers are less likely to report job-related misconduct than their counterparts elsewhere, largely because they don't believe the problem will be fixed and they fear retaliation from bosses, a new survey by Mayor Daley's hiring compliance chief reveals. The snapshot into City Hall work culture found that Chicago employees report only one out of every two instances of misconduct they witness. TRIBUNE

Black-white health divide grows in Chicago, study says

Chicago Tribune

A new study is reporting a widening gulf in the health status of blacks and whites in Chicago, even though disparities between the two races nationally have remained relatively constant.

Nationally, the racial gap worsened from 1990 to 2005 for six of the 15 health indicators researchers studied.

However, in Chicago, disparities worsened for 11 of the 15 indicators, according to research by the Sinai Urban Health Institute, published online Thursday in the American Journal of Public Health.

Of the 11 disparities that got worse, five were statistically significant: death from all causes, heart disease mortality, breast cancer mortality, rates of tuberculosis and the percentage of women who received no prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Institute director Steve Whitman, whose work has compared breast cancer disparities in Chicago and New York, said the health of African-Americans in Chicago fares worse than blacks elsewhere.



Dr. Charles Barron of ACCESS South-west Family Health Center examines Letita Shepherd on Thursday. A new study finds a widening gulf in the health status of blacks and whites in Chicago, even though disparities between blacks and whites nationally have remained static.

ANTONIO PEREZ/ TRIBUNE

"The underlying issue here is racism and poverty," Whitman said. "In Chicago, it's exacerbated by segregation.

"Black people in Chicago are forced to live in neighborhoods where there are no stores to buy

fresh fruits and vegetables, where schools are failing, where they don't have parks to exercise in and where they tend to go to segregated health facilities that are poorly funded and, in different ways, failing."

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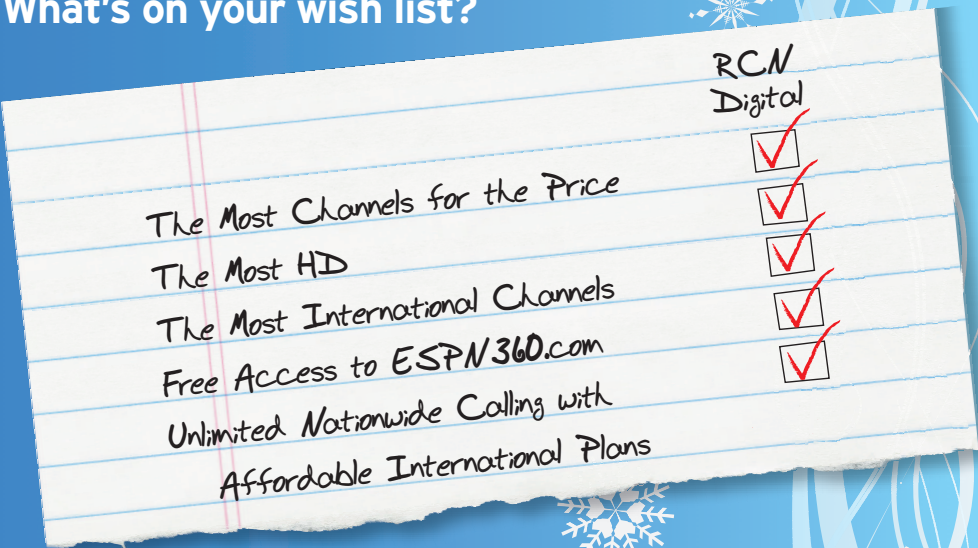
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Ashland & Wellington
Brickyard
Broadway & Lawrence
Clark & Howard
Clark St. & Diversey Hwy.
Clybourn & Racine
Elston Ave. & Logan Blvd.
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Fox Valley Shopping Center
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Golf Mills
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773.247.9000
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630.262.3984
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Milwaukee & Wisner
North & Milwaukee
North Riverside Park Mall
Oakbrook Shopping Center
Old Orchard Shopping Center
Ontario & Wabash
Orland Square
Randolph & Wabash
Roosevelt Rd.
Sheridan Rd. & Arthur Ave.
Spring Hill Mall
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Sun shines on happy states

7 WASHINGTON People in sunny, outdoor-sy states—Louisiana, Hawaii, Florida—say they're the happiest Americans, and researchers think they know why.

A new study comparing self-described pleasant feelings with objective measures of good living found these folks generally have reason to feel fine. The places where people are most likely to report happiness also tend to rate high on studies comparing things like cli-

mate, crime rates, air quality and schools.

The happiness ratings were based on a survey of 1.3 million people across the country by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It used data collected over four years that included a question asking people how satisfied they are with their lives.

Economists Andrew J. Oswald of the University of Warwick in England and Stephen Wu of Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., compared the happiness ranking with studies that rated states on a variety of criteria ranging from availability of public land to commuting time to local taxes.

Probably not surprisingly, their report in Friday's edition of the journal *Science* found the happiest people tend to live in the states that do well in quality-of-life studies.

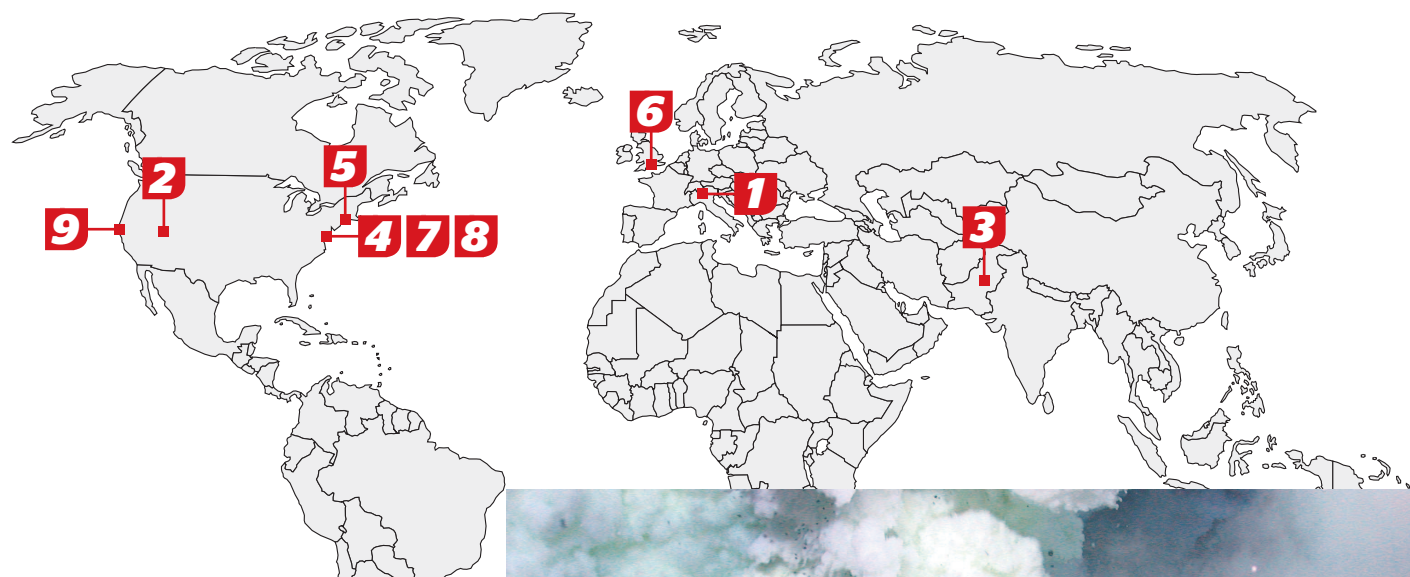
Ranking No. 1 in happiness was Louisiana, home of Dixieland music and Cajun/Creole cooking.

Oswald urged a bit of caution in that ranking, however, noting that part of the happiness survey occurred before Hurricane Katrina struck the state, and part of it took place later.

Nevertheless, he said, "We have no explicit reason to think there is a problem" with the ranking.

HOW THEY RANK

1. Louisiana
2. Hawaii
3. Florida
4. Tennessee
5. Arizona
45. Illinois
51. New York



Senator holds out on health care plan

8 WASHINGTON A moderate Democrat whose vote could be crucial said Thursday an attempted Senate compromise on abortion is unsatisfactory, raising doubts about whether the chamber can pass President Obama's health care overhaul by Christmas.

"As it is, without modifications, the language concerning abortion is not sufficient," Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson, a key holdout on the health care bill, said in a statement after first making his concerns known to Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

Nelson said there were improvements dealing with teen pregnancy and adoption, and that he was open to further negotiations. But in a radio interview earlier in the day with KLIN in Lincoln, Neb., Nelson also said that abortion wasn't his only concern and he didn't see how the Christmas deadline was achievable.



Deep science

9 A plume of sulphur and molten lava erupts from the West Mata Volcano nearly 4,000 feet beneath the Pacific Ocean, in an image provided by the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In May, scientists captured video of an eruption at the deepest submarine volcano ever discovered for the first time. On Thursday, they presented the video at a geophysics conference in San Francisco. **AP PHOTO**



AP

Berlusconi released

1 Four days after being attacked at a political rally, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi was whisked away from a Milan hospital with his face covered in bandages, an unusual sight from a politician and media mogul long obsessed with controlling his image.

Mother still missing

2 The family of a Utah mother who has been missing for 10 days says they are saddened but not surprised that her husband has been named a person of interest in the investigation. Susan Powell, a 28-year-old mother of two children, was reported missing Dec. 7 when she didn't show up for work.

Missile attacks

3 Two U.S. missile strikes pummeled targets inside the main sanctuary used by al-Qaida and the Taliban along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, killing 17 people Thursday, local intelligence officials said.

Senate approves Bernanke

4 A Senate panel on Thursday approved the nomination of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke to run the nation's central bank for another four years.

Fatal shooting

5 A gunman shot a man, his son-in-law and grandson to death in their New York City apartment Thursday, then fell off a fire escape to his death while trying to flee the scene, police said.

Strike plan grounded

6 Britain's High Court on Thursday granted British Airways an emergency injunction to stop a 12-day strike by its cabin crews over the Christmas travel season.

THE DIGIT 100 million

The nation's supply of swine flu vaccine will reach 100 million doses by week's end, opening the way for everyone to get protected. For people who've been at the back of the line, "Now it's your turn," Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, said Thursday.

sports

BRIGGS DOESN'T DIG '09

BEARS LINEBACKER PREDICTS CHANGES FOR TEAM

Chicago Tribune

Lance Briggs stepped to the podium in the media room at Halas Hall on Thursday afternoon and said he was ready to deliver some controversy.

The Pro Bowl linebacker was joking, playing off an interesting Wednesday when wide receiver Devin Hester expressed his frustration with his role and the team's struggles.

"There is going to be a shakeup. There is going to be what I call a shake at the lake," Briggs joked.

Then, the team's leading tackler got serious and admitted that, yeah, things could be different starting in January.

"Obviously, with years like this, I'm sure something is going to happen," Briggs said. "Next year, I don't know what. But for me and the rest of the guys in the locker room, this year and this day will never come again."

"It's frustrating to go through years like this. The only thing at this point that you can really do, or I feel I can do, is for one, finish strong, two, not let this happen again."

"I could say a bunch of different things about it. We're definitely not the team of the past, of those successful years [2005 and 2006]. We don't play that way. It doesn't feel that way on the field, and the results are not the same. So,



WATCH DOG

Bears at Baltimore

Noon, Fox
The Ravens finally have an O to go along with their feared D. For the Bears, it means DOA.

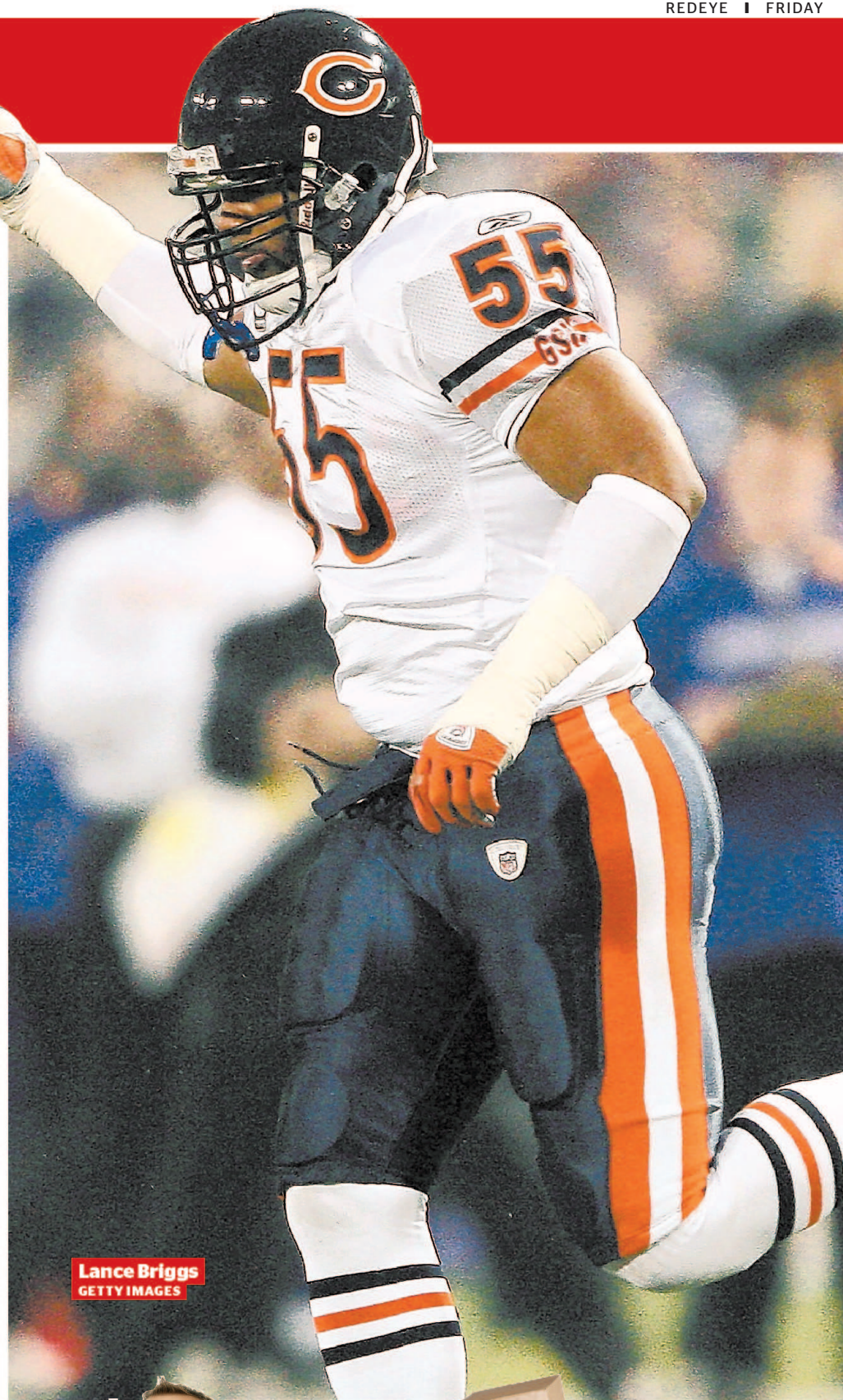
any hope of that, people need to put that stuff to rest, really, and we need to start moving forward and continue to move forward and eliminate the questions of, 'Are you guys going to get back to this form?'

"We need to move forward and develop the guys that are here, get better communication, play better football and work on success for next year."

Briggs then started talking about some of the players and coaches who are no longer here, mentioning ex-defensive coordinator Ron Rivera and secondary coach Perry Fewell, and players Thomas Jones, John Tait, Mike Brown, Ruben Brown, Chris Harris and even Ian Scott.

"There are guys that are gone that we don't have," Briggs said. "I think sometimes when you believe in what we're doing so much, you think sometimes, 'Hey, we can let this guy go,' or 'We don't need this guy,' and we'll be just fine. I think in most cases that would be the case, but you miss some of those guys when you don't have them, and sometimes you realize what you could have had when it's not there anymore. There are things that I do miss about some of those players."

"The thing is, in football nothing lasts forever. Who is to say if those guys are with us today we would be successful?"



Lance Briggs
GETTY IMAGES

FOUR SCORE

Every week before the Bears game, RedEye's crew gets to the point.



TRACY SWARTZ
twitter.com/tracyswartz

**Baltimore 24,
Bears 7**

The Bears will score once against the Ravens. Somebody should tell the Bears there's no need for point shavin'.



SARAH SPAIN
chicagonow.com/sarah-spain

**Baltimore 30,
Bears 13**

The Bears won't have an answer for either Ray: Rice or Lewis.



BRIAN MOORE
twitter.com/redeyesports

**Baltimore 19,
Bears 3**

If you need any player from these two teams to win your fantasy football playoff game, you're done.



BAG BOY
redeyesports@tribune.com

**Baltimore 38,
Bears 3**

Devin Hester's looking forward to changes. I'm looking forward to a Ravens stomping.



Joe Schmitt (center) brought about a dozen disenfranchised Bears fans together Thursday to sing a parody of the traditional Bears fight song. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE

‘Lie down, Chicago Bears’

Chicago Tribune

In early November, as the Arizona Cardinals were thumping the Bears 41-21, Joe Schmitt sat in Soldier Field with some friends who began altering the words of the home team’s fight song.

Rather than “Bear down, Chicago Bears,” they sang, “Lie down, Chicago Bears.”

On the ride home, Schmitt—a Web strategist at a Chicago ad firm and a well-known Twitter comedian (@joeschmitt)—set his mind to re-writing the song. That manifestation of a Bears fan’s anguish culminated Thursday evening as Schmitt and a dozen friends and colleagues gathered to shoot a video of what he has dubbed “Chicago Bears Fight Song (frustrated fan version).”

Holding a Bears banner upside down—the international symbol for distress—the dejected choir chimed:

“Lie down, Chicago Bears,
snatch defeat from the jaws of victory;
Lie down, Chicago Bears,
let them score and you’ve lost your dig-
nity.

We’ll never forget the way you bored the
nation
with your punt formation.
Lie down, Chicago Bears,
you’ve failed again to convert on third
down.

Haven’t had a man since Jim McMahon,
Chicago Bears, lie down.”

When it was over, Schmitt said, with sarcasm turned on high: “I’m sure this song will change everything.”

The video, complete with lyrics and bouncing ball, should be available late Friday at liedownchicagobears.com.

Unhappy holidays

Well, it’s the holi-day season, and I don’t see too much shopping around here.

The stockings are empty, and underneath the tree ... it’s empty.

Memo to the Cubs: IT’S THE OFFSEASON! Do something! Make a trade! Sign someone! Spend some money!

The new owners, not impres-sive. Way to make a big splash, Ricketts family. I see you’re doing nothing to fix your problems. You’ll fit right in.

The White Sox, a little different story. They’re at least trying to impress me.

The Juan Pierre move. Hmm, let’s call this a “Kenny Williams Special.” This is where he gets an aging player, a little past his prime, a little banged up, and tries to make something out of him.

Can’t say it hasn’t worked before, so I won’t dismiss it. Just once, though, I would like to get one of these guys in their prime. Like, you know, the 2003 Juan Pierre that killed the Cubs. That means we say goodbye to Scotty Pods. Liked his attitude, but he was an idiot on the base paths.

All I know is they signed a pitcher named J.J. Putz. There must be a mistake. If your name is “Putz,” I think the Chicago team you’re supposed to play for is the Bears.

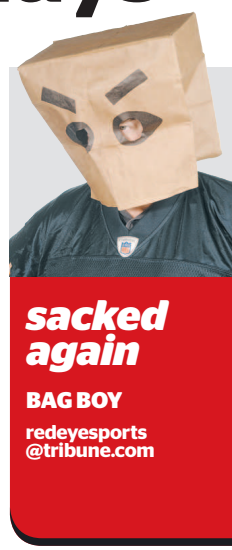
Oh, here’s another team that likes to sit and watch. People, the Cleveland Browns are just about to sign Mike Holmgren to run their entire team. Hmm, how come no one around here thought about that? No, wait a minute, I did! Congratulations, the Browns just passed us.

Also, I see Devin Hester is looking forward to changes in the offseason. Yeah, me too. Please, keep using the wide receiver screen! No one knows its coming!

Devin, I hope the changes include ship-ping you back to special teams, because you lack the brains and body to be a big-time wide receiver. And since Lovie has officially proven he’s brain dead and maybe body dead, we can all speak openly (finally!) about his replacement.

Ah, the greatest gift of all, honesty.

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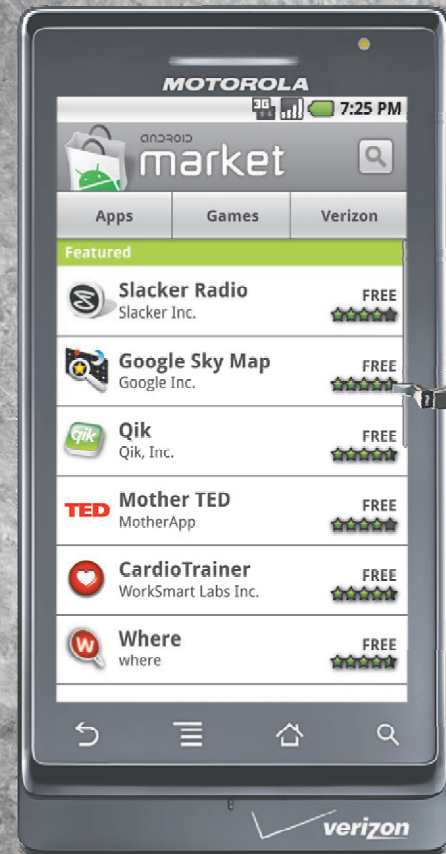
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Supri's goodbye

This is Supriya's last appearance in Five on Five before she leaves us. Yes, That Guy repulses her that much. Play at redeyechicago.com/5on5.

TOPIC	 JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@chicagonow.com	 PHILLIP THOMPSON plthompson@tribune.com	 SUPRIYA DOSHI sdoshi@tribune.com	 THAT GUY redeyesports@tribune.com	 CHAMBERLON CLARK twitter.com/redeyechicago
1 What will people in Baltimore learn about the Bears this weekend?	That the Orioles are a model franchise compared to the Bears.	Some of the Bears offensive linemen doubled as corpses on "The Wire."	That it's fun to play against a crappy team.	That playing against Jay Cutler is like having a second QB when the Ravens are on defense.	What the bottom looks like.
2 What could happen Sunday that would give you hope for the 2010 Bears?	Jerry Angelo could fire Lovie Smith and then announce his own retirement.	I don't know what's killing them, but maybe Ray Lewis can take a stab at it.	A halftime firing of Ron Turner—with fireworks.	Eight catches and eight receptions despite a terrible offense. It will be called The Miracle of Bear-nakuh.	A perfect Jay Cutler performance.
3 What Chicago athlete would fit well in the movie "Avatar"?	Give Carlos Zambrano some blue spray paint and he'd be perfect.	Jo Noah. He'll talk to you till he's blue in the face.	The whole Bulls team—their avatars could have talent.	Ridiculously expensive movie featuring weird-looking creatures? The entire Bulls team.	Devin Hester runs like a humanoid sometimes.
4 How will you welcome Juan Pierre back to Chicago?	With a health club card that transfers to any contending MLB city after July 31, 2010.	I plan to steal a plate from his china cabinet.	Welcome to the jungle ... now get to work.	I'll make an ignorant comment about Columbian coffee and Juan Valdez even though he's from Louisiana.	With a "Don't make us regret this" banner.
5 How is the nation's health-debate like sports?	The Cubs need to eliminate Milton Bradley, their worst pre-existing condition.	I know the nation's free clinics are overcrowded thanks to Tiger Woods.	You can buy off the refs in both.	It's completely heart-wrenching, yet 90 percent of the population has no idea what's going on.	The numbers don't always add up.

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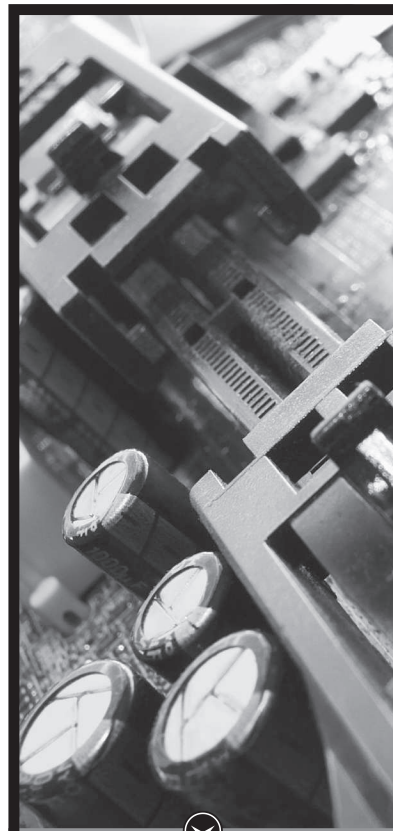
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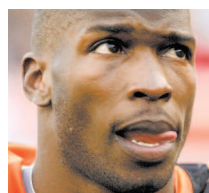
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Ath Tweets

The sports world mourned the death of Chris Henry on Thursday, many of them on Twitter.



Chad Ochocinco
@OGOchoCinco
Cincinnati Bengals, wide receiver
You'll never be forgotten Chris (slim) Henry R.I.P.

Andy Simms
@andysimms
Sports agent
It is tragic when a life is taken so young. He was a man just realizing his potential, not just in football, but in life. He will be missed.

Steve Slaton
@ThaDoubles
Houston Texans, running back
R.I.P. to fellow WVU alumni Chris Henry.

Shaquille O'Neal
@THE_REAL_SHAQ
Cleveland Cavaliers, center
R.I.P. Chris Henry, you will be missed, my brother.



Cincinnati Bengals' Chris Henry (right) is seen with (from left) his fiancée, Loleini Tonga, and their children DeMarcus, 10 months, Seini, 3, and Chris Jr., 2. Henry died Thursday after falling from the back of a pickup truck in Charlotte. AP

'We were crying'

Cincinnati player killed in domestic dispute

CINCINNATI For the second time in their breakthrough season, the Cincinnati Bengals are dealing with death.

Tearful players held a somber practice Thursday and dedicated the rest of their season to receiver Chris Henry after learning he'd died a day after falling from the back of a pickup truck during what police called a domestic dispute.

Shocked players huddled in the locker room once they got word Henry had died at a hospital in Charlotte. They said a prayer, then went out on the Paul Brown Stadium field to walk through some of their plays for Sunday's game in San Diego.

No one said much.

"It was tough," receiver Andre Caldwell said. "We were crying."

The team was grief-stricken in October when Vikki Zimmer, the wife of defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer, died unexpectedly at the couple's home. Three days later, Zimmer coached the

defense in a 17-14 win in Baltimore that put them in control of the AFC North.

Losing a teammate hit the Bengals (9-4) even harder Thursday. Players will put a commemorative No. 15 sticker on their helmets, and coaches will wear commemorative pins during the game.

Receiver Chad Ochocinco couldn't finish his lunch—he dumped broccoli into a trash bin—and shuffled around the locker room.

"He was doing everything right," Ochocinco said. "My grandma always says you never question the man upstairs on decisions he makes. Everyone makes mistakes, but I don't see how Chris was supposed to go already, especially when he was on the right path."

Henry, 26, had struggled through a number of mistakes away from the field—he was suspended five times—and the Bengals at one point released him after the 2007 season as he dealt with an assault charge.



watch dog

WHIZZER
redeyesports
@tribune.com

I hear Saturday is the biggest shopping day of the year. Hopefully someone's looking for a Milton Bradley. Here now, my TV picks.



NHL
Blackhawks vs. Boston
7:30 p.m. CSN
Bruins on ice, no good.
Brews on ice, score!



NBA
Cleveland vs. Milwaukee
7 p.m. ESPN
Brandon Jennings has single-handedly made the Bucks watchable—barely.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Montana vs. Villanova
7 p.m. ESPN2
This is the Div. I-AA title game. Why can't the BCS do it this way?



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» Danica Patrick will ease her way into NASCAR by skipping the Nationwide Series opener at Daytona in favor of a less-stressful debut Feb. 20 in California for JR Motorsports.

» Newly acquired Juan Pierre, J.J. Putz and Mark Teahen are among the players now committed to attending SoxFest 2010 from Jan. 22-24, joining Mark Kotsay, Gordon Beckham, Mark Buehrle, Freddy Garcia, Paul Konerko, Scott Linebrink, Jayson Nix, Jake Peavy, A.J. Pierzynski, Alexei Ramirez and Matt Thornton.

» Bulls 98, N.Y. Knicks 89

» Olivet Nazarene 75, Chicago St. 68

» Pepsi won't advertise in Super Bowl.





Macaron

Fritz Pastry

1408 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-857-2989

\$.75

A delicate outer crust melts in your mouth, giving way to a slightly chewy cookie, then a silky-smooth filling—usually buttercream, ganache or jam, depending on the flavor. And suddenly, you're in France. Or maybe heaven. But definitely not Lincoln Park. We're partial to mocha (call us suckers for a buttercream filling) but pistachio or chocolate will more than suffice.



Char Siu Pork Banh Mi

Bon Bon Vietnamese Sandwiches

2333 W. North Ave. 773-278-5800

\$3.95

Sometimes, single-mindedness is a virtue. Case in point: This Wicker Park spot, which does banh mi eight ways, and pretty much nothing else. It's not quite the best in town (we reserve that honor for Nhu Lan, from which Bon Bon wisely sources its bread) but it's easily the best to hit the street this year, especially the smoky-sweet barbecued pork version.

12 **for**
\$40

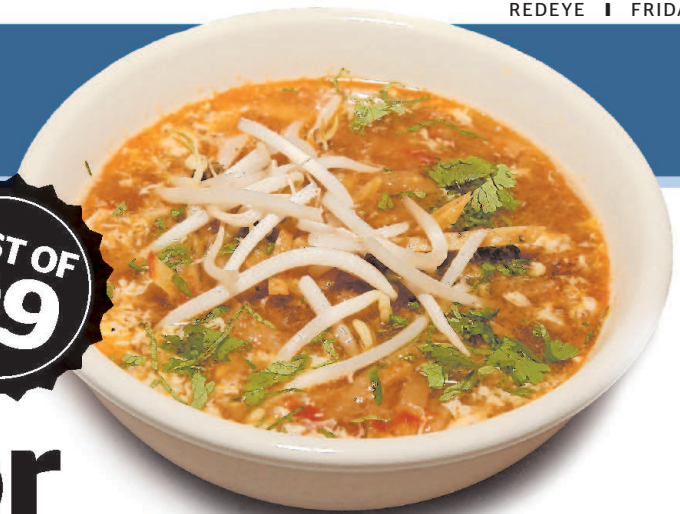
The best bites of '09—on a budget

By M. Kathleen Pratt

End-of-year “best of” lists are fun to make and fun to read. That’s why they’re everywhere right about now.

But “best of” lists also are a little depressing. Try to eat at anyone’s top 10 restaurants of ’09, and you’ll probably run up a tab in the quadruple digits. And not all of us—especially this year—have that kind of cash to burn.

So, in the tradition of our regular 2 for \$20 feature, we rounded up a dozen of the very best bites we had this year. They’re all new in 2009. They’re nearly all less than \$5. And they’re all suitable one-off purchases—no strings attached. (The \$5 house-made tofu at Takashi’s new-this-year noodle lunch is fantastic, for example. But who goes to a full-service restaurant and orders tofu and glass of tap water?) The total bill for our bites: \$39.73.



“Hot and Sour” soup

Belly Shack

1912 N. Western Ave. 773-252-1414

\$4

Part spicy chicken pozole. Part eggy hot and sour soup. Entirely amazing.

This fragrant, filling bowl represents Bill Kim’s mashup-style take on Asian and Latin cuisines at its best.

Hoosier Sugar Cream Pie

Hoosier Mama Pie Shop

1618 ½ W. Chicago Ave. 312-243-4846

\$4

A pie without fruit, chocolate or nuts? We had doubts. Until we met a slice of this one and the velvety

filling and flaky, buttery crust made us forget all about what wasn’t there.

Bacon Toffee

Rootstock

954 N. California Ave. 773-292-1616

\$5

This melt-in-your-mouth, stick-to-your-teeth toffee studded with smoky bacon chunks is all the proof you’ll

need: There is evil genius brewing in the kitchen at this Humboldt Park beer and wine bar.





Almendrado Chocolate

Xoco

449 N. Clark St. 312-334-3688

You can get drinking chocolate at any number of places in town. You can get drinking chocolate

\$3.25

from a bean-to-bar chocolate program—that means the final product is made on site, just steps

from your cup—only at this Rick Bayless spot. A shot of sweet almond milk balances our favorite version, which always seems to disappear from the tiny cup at an alarming rate.



BARRY BRECHISEN/
METROMIX

Taco de Rajas de Poblano

Big Star

1531 N. Damen Ave. 773-235-4039

\$3

We thought we knew where to get a good taco in this town. And, with due respect to Flash Taco, it was nowhere near Wicker Park's Milwaukee-North-Damen intersection. Then Paul Kahan came along and opened a bar with a taco window and started handing out these divine little packages: soft, fresh tortillas filled with a fiery mess of roasted poblano peppers, topped with a single browned, bubbling strip of queso.



Fries

Benjyehuda

212 W. Van Buren St. 312-408-2365

\$1.79

We know what you're thinking: Fries? Really? One of the best bites of the year? You need to get out more. Just trust us on this one: A one-pound bag (one pound!) of these thick, crunchy, hand-cut beauties will change your lunch hours forever. Add a little tub of Mercks cheddar sauce (99 cents) for dipping if you really want to take them over the top.



Pollo Empanadas

Macondo

2965 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-698-6867

\$2.49

We have the family behind Las Tablas Colombian steakhouse to thank for these little flavor bombs. Not only does Leo Suarez, son of Las Tablas patriarch Jorge Suarez, run Macondo, the crunchy corn dough empanada recipe is his grandmother's. Though you can't go wrong with any of the half-dozen or so varieties, we like ours stuffed with smoky spiced chicken.

Fraise Du Bois sorbet

Seedling Fruit

Green City Market

\$3

Disclaimer: The fact that it was a sweltering summer day at the Green City Market when we first tried this treat may have colored our opinion. Still, it's hard not to put a cup of cool, soothing wild strawberry sorbet on our short list of things we're missing most about summers in Chicago.

Al Pastor Burrito

Abuelo's Mexican Grill

2007 S. Damen Ave. 312-733-0329

\$5.50

Tightly packed with spit-grilled pork, super-fresh tomatoes, crunchy red cabbage, lightly pickled onions and a refreshingly restrained portion of black beans, then touched with tangy house-made habanero dressing, this is one hefty burrito. It's not just the best cheap dinner we had this year. It's the best cheap two dinners we had this year.



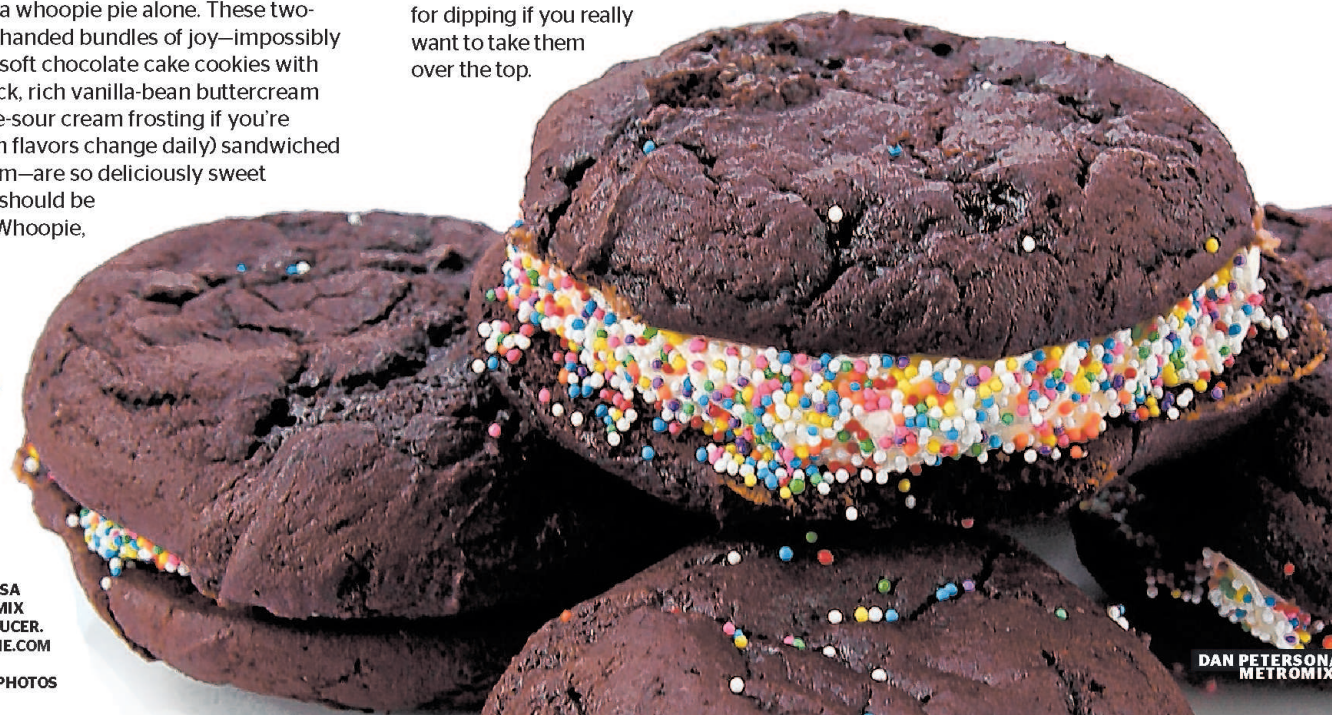
Whoopie Pie

Bake

2246 W. North Ave. 773-384-7655

\$3

Warning: Do not attempt to eat a whoopie pie alone. These two-handed bundles of joy—impossibly soft chocolate cake cookies with a layer of thick, rich vanilla-bean buttercream (or chocolate-sour cream frosting if you're lucky, though flavors change daily) sandwiched between them—are so deliciously sweet that sharing should be mandatory. Whoopie, indeed.

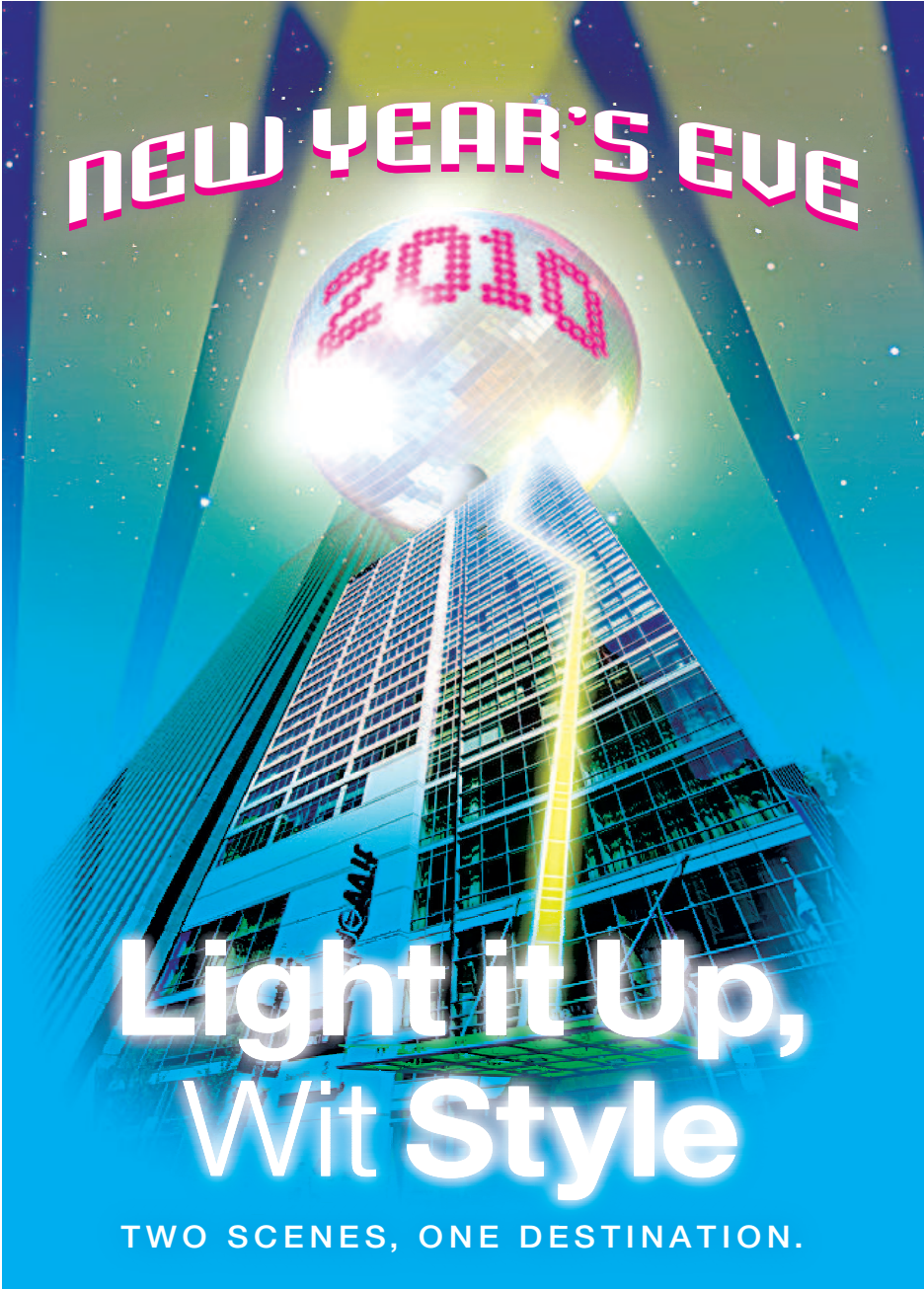


M. KATHLEEN PRATT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER. ADDITIONAL BACON TOFFEE REPORTING BY LISA ARNETT, METROMIX NIGHTLIFE PRODUCER. KPRATT@TRIBUNE.COM

METROMIX FILE PHOTOS

DAN PETERSON/
METROMIX

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Rosemont Theatre,
5400 N. River Rd.,
Rosemont. 847-671-
5100.

**THE CHAIRS,
ATHENS**
8 p.m. \$7. Ronny's,
2101 N. California Ave.
mpshows.com

**DELAFIELDS,
THOMAS PACE**
10 p.m. \$10 suggested
donation. Uncommon
Ground on Devon, 1401
W. Devon Ave. 773-465-
9801.

**THE GLIDE,
MAKESHIFT
PRODIGY, THEMDR,
PROFESSOR KLIQ**
8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Bottom
Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St.
312-666-6775.

**JOSH HOGE,
MATT DUKE,
AMBER RUBARTH**
8 p.m. \$12-\$24. Space,
1245 Chicago Ave.,
Evanston. 847-492-
8860.

**KAZY, THE DIRTY VIBE,
THUNDERUNDERUS,
LOVESICK
RADIO, ANDREW
HAWTHORNE**
8:30 p.m. \$9. Elbo
Room, 2871 N. Lincoln
Ave. 773-549-5549.

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ALL MODS CONNED:
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SKAPONE,
THE MIDNIGHT
SHOWS, WHO'S THIS
MARY?, JANESVILLE**
10 p.m. \$10. Schubas,
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508.

**MOTION CITY
SOUNDTRACK,
ULTIMATE FAKEBOOK**
7 p.m. Sold out.
Lincoln Hall, 2424 N.
Lincoln Ave. 773-525-
2508.

**NGUZO, THE
UNIPHONICS**
10 p.m. \$5. Morseland,
1218 W. Morse Ave. 773-
764-8900.

**OFF BROADWAY,
GIDGETS GAGA**

9 p.m. \$12. FitzGerald's,
6615 Roosevelt Rd.,
Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

**REDS AND BLUE,
MY GOLD MASK,
SHAPERS**
9 p.m. \$5 donation.
Quenchers Saloon,
2401 N. Western Ave.
773-276-1730.

RICO!
9 p.m. \$10-\$12. Abbey
Pub, 3420 W. Grace St.
773-478-4408.

**ROBERTA
GAMBORINI TRIO**
8 and 10 p.m. Cover
varies. Jazz Showcase,
806 S. Plymouth Ct.
312-360-0234.

**SISTER HAZEL,
TONY LUCCA**
9 p.m. \$25-\$26.50.
House of Blues, 329 N.
Dearborn St. 312-923-
2000.

**SIX DEGREES OF
BUMPUS: BUMPUS,
TERRIBLE SPACESHIP,
BRENT PULSE, TINA
HOWELL AND THE**

**FELLAS, CLIP ART,
EVE'S MISTAKE**
9 p.m. \$12. Martyrs',
3855 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-404-9869.

**SONGS OF
GOOD CHEER**
7:30 p.m. \$36-\$40. Old
Town School of Folk
Music, 4544 N. Lincoln
Ave. 773-728-6000.

**STEVE BLOSSAT
SWING QUARTET**
9 p.m. \$10. The Joynt,
650 N. Dearborn St. 312-
573-2233.

TAPROOT
9 p.m. Free. Cubby Bear,
1059 W. Addison St. 773-
327-1662.

**TEENAGE FACES, CRY
COYOTE, BLACKBELTS**
10 p.m. \$5 donation.
Cal's Liquors, 400 S.
Wells St. 312-922-6392.

**TORTURED SOUL,
CARLA PRATHER,
LADY D**
9 p.m. \$15. Double Door,
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.
773-489-3160.

WES HAYDEN
10 p.m. \$8-\$10. Joe's Bar,
940 W. Weed St. 312-337-
3486.

SATURDAY

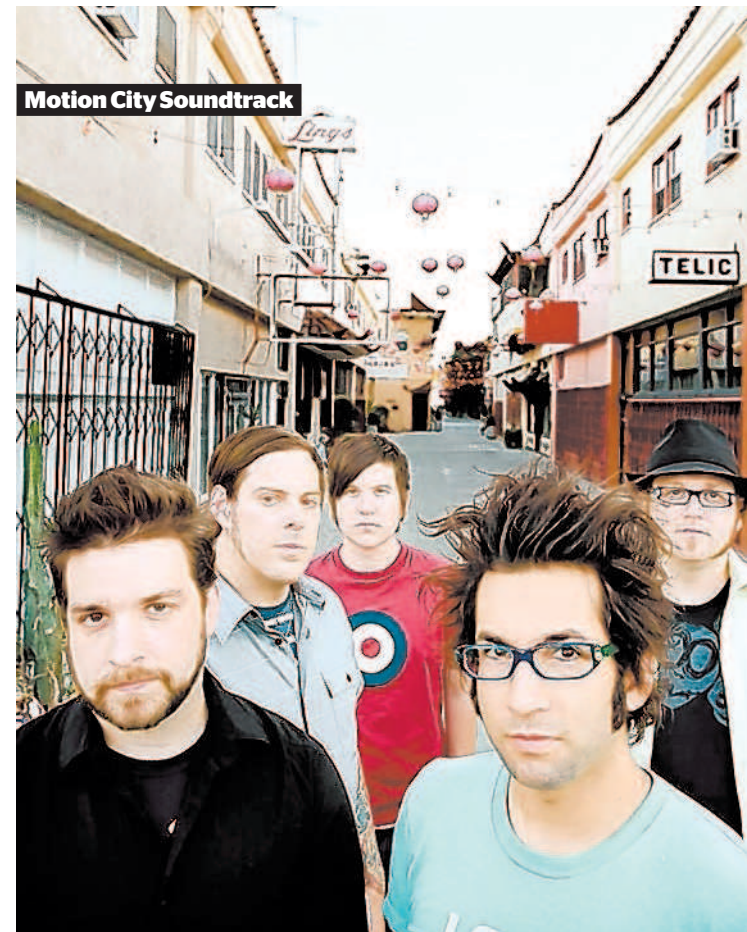
**AKIKO TSURUGA
ORGAN TRIO**
8 p.m. \$10-\$15. Green
Mill, 4802 N. Broadway.
773-878-5552.

**BAD HEART BULL,
RIPLEY CAINE,
ASHLEY THORNTON**
9 p.m. \$5. Red Line Tap,
7006 N. Glenwood Ave.
773-274-5463.

BARRY MANILOW
8 p.m. \$12.37-\$261.62.
Rosemont Theatre,
5400 N. River Rd.,
Rosemont. 847-671-
5100.

**CHASE COY,
MARK ROSE,
JAMESTOWN STORY,
LUCAS CARPENTER**
5:30 p.m. \$10-\$12.
Beat Kitchen, 2100
W. Belmont Ave.
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KEVIN ANDREW PRCHAL

Singer-songwriter plays from new "Eat Shirt & Tie." With Katie Scrantom. 10 p.m. Fri. \$5 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

MANNEQUIN MEN

Booze not required, but it fits. With *White Mystery, Blasted Diplomats, Village*. 9:30 p.m. Fri. \$3-\$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

MUSIKANTO

Sleeper Car alum delivers sweet folk-pop. With *Death Ships, Curtis Evans*. 9 p.m. Fri. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

RISE AGAINST

Punk veterans bring the noise. With *The Bollweevils, Noise By Numbers*. 6:30 p.m. Fri. Sold out. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.



« page 22

CHIA PET, THE HOUSE THAT GLORIA VANDERBILT, PRIZZY PRIZZY PLEASE

10:30 p.m. \$7. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

CHICAGO AFROBEAT PROJECT, GET UP WITH THE GET DOWN

10 p.m. \$12-\$15. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

THE DETROIT COBRAS, THE DEXTER ROMWEBER DUO, THE BLACKS, LAWRENCE PETERS OUTFIT

8:30 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

IFDAKAR, A BAND CALLED CATCH, DUTCH HENRY, LOS BORRACHOS, THE SPHERICAL BANANA'S, CHRISTOPHER BLISSOPHER AND FRIENDS

8 p.m. \$10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

KILL HANNAH, HEY CHAMP, 1997

6:30 p.m. \$20-\$50. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

MATLOCK AND WES RESTLESS, BLACK COLLAR, SWIFT, BILLIEDEEBOODAH, TEMPO1

9 p.m. \$6. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK, ULTIMATE FAKEBOOK

7 p.m. Sold out. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

ONE NIGHT STAND: DARK WAVE DISCO DJS, WILLY JOY, KID COLOR, TEAM BAYSIDE HIGH, MIDNIGHT CONSPIRACY

11:30 p.m. \$6. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

RECORD LOW, BULLY IN THE HALLWAY, MR. GNOME

10 p.m. \$5-\$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

REEL JEM, REGO, NATHAN XANDER

9 p.m. \$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

RONNIE BAKER BROOKS

9:30 p.m. \$15. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

SISTER HAZEL, TONY LUCCA

9 p.m. \$25-\$26.50. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

THE SNOW ANGELS

9 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

SONGS OF GOOD CHEER

7:30 p.m. \$36-\$40. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

STNNNG, FLAUM ADGER, WEREWORM

9 p.m. \$5 donation. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-1730.

TEEN IDOLS, THE METHADONES, THE WANTON LOOKS, THE REAGANOMICS

8 p.m. \$10. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

TOO WHITE CREW

10 p.m. \$7. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

TWO FOR BRAZIL

6:30 p.m. \$5. Katerina's, 1920 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-348-7592.

WILLIAM BECKETT, DANNY STEVENS, THE GRADUATE, MATHLETES, TAKE COVER

5 p.m. \$15. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

SUNDAY

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8 p.m. \$5. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.

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The Brother/Sister Plays

January 21 – May 23, 2010

Endgame

April 1 – June 6, 2010

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July 1 – August 29, 2010

steppenwolf

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MUSE.MU

Q101



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**THE CANOES,
HOSPITAL GARDEN,
DIRTYSWITCH**

8 p.m. \$7. Ronny's,
2101 N. California Ave.
mpshows.com

**DASBOTON,
SLICK CONDITIONS**

9 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354
W. Wabansia Ave. 773-
227-4433.

**THE DAYMAKERS,
POPPY HARLOW,
CONVERGENCE,
ON DISTANT SHORES,
JIP-JOP, AARON
MORALES**

8:30 p.m. \$10. Elbo
Room, 2871 N. Lincoln
Ave. 773-549-5549.

**GOLD MOTEL, SECRET
COLOURS, DESTRY**

7 p.m. \$10. Beat Kitchen,
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Everclear, Wednesday,
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**Killswitch Engage,
The Devil Wears
Prada, Dark**

Tranquility, Monday,
Feb. 15 (\$26-\$28, all
ages) at House of
Blues.

**New Found Glory,
Saves the Day,
Hello Goodbye**, Friday,
March 5 (\$20.50-\$25,
all ages) at House of
Blues.

Timbaland, Jay Sean,
Sunday, Jan. 24 (\$33-
\$36, 17+) at House of
Blues.

**ON SALE NOON
FRIDAY**

Band of Heathens,
Wednesday, Jan. 27
(\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

The Clientele,
Wednesday, March 17
(\$15, 21+) at Lincoln
Hall.

**ON SALE 10 A.M.
SATURDAY**

Mariah Carey,
Saturday, Feb. 13
(\$69.75-\$150.75, all
ages) at Chicago
Theatre.



**The Soundtrack of
Our Lives, Nico Vega**,
Sunday, Feb. 28 (\$15,
21+) at Lincoln Hall.

**ON SALE 11 A.M.
SATURDAY**

Cracker, Tuesday, Feb.
16 (\$20-\$25, all ages) at
Space.

Greg Laswell,
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 17
(\$12-\$15, all ages) at
Space.

Allen Toussaint,
Friday, Feb. 19 (\$38-\$52,
all ages) at Space.

**ON SALE NOON
SATURDAY**

**A Kidnap in Color, The
Highlife, Draft Week,
Footlight Frenzy,
Indecent Exposure**,

Saturday, Jan. 16 (\$11,
all ages) at Metro.

**The Academy Is ...
Sing It Loud**, Saturday,
Feb. 6 (\$25, all ages;
buy your ticket from
the band at venue box
office noon-2 p.m. Dec.
19) at Metro.

**Bottle of Justus,
Thomas Ian Nicholas**,
Saturday, Feb. 6 (\$10,
21+) at Double Door.

**Breakers Broken,
How Far to Austin,
Greensugar**, Friday,
Feb. 5 (\$7-\$10, 21+) at
Double Door.

**Overkill, Vader,
God Dethroned,
Warbringer, Evile**,

Woe of Tyrants,
Friday, April 9 (\$25, all
ages) at Metro.

Polysics, Wednesday,
Feb. 10 (\$13-\$15, 21+) at
Double Door.

Yeasayer, Thursday,
April 29 (\$16-\$19, 18+) at
Metro.

**ON SALE 5 P.M.
SATURDAY**

Justin Bieber,
Thursday, March 25
(\$29.50-\$39.50, all
ages) at Rosemont
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**ON SALE 10 A.M.
MONDAY**

**Muse, Silversun
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Rupert Friend as Prince Albert and Emily Blunt as Queen Victoria in 'The Young Victoria.'
APPARITION FILMS

Friend and Blunt
are royally romantic
in 'Young Victoria'

Queen of hearts

By Miki Turner
FOR REDEYE

LOS ANGELES Rupert Friend didn't want to talk about his relationship with girlfriend Keira Knightley during an interview in his hotel suite, but he gladly dished about someone else's love affair at length.

No, he wasn't gossiping, just recalling one of the most significant and enduring royal romances in the history of the British monarchy.

Friend plays Prince Albert, the mild-mannered but strong-willed husband of Queen Victoria, in "The Young Victoria." Produced by Sarah Ferguson, the former Duchess of York, and starring Golden Globe-nominated Emily Blunt in the title role as the woman who ruled the United Kingdom from 1837-1876 (making her the longest-reigning British monarch ever), the film chronicles the events leading up to the courtship and marriage of these two blue-blooded first cousins who were deeply in love despite being pawns in an arranged union.

How passionate was their relationship? The man took a bullet to protect his wife even though they had just had a heated argument. And when he died, the queen had his clothes laid out every morning until the day she passed away. More impressive, perhaps, is that the couple didn't spend a night apart for 20 years.

Friend described the love affair between Victoria

and Albert as "an incredible partnership in every sense of the word."

Although Blunt nabbed the nomination, Friend's performance was spot-on too. His research provided him with the tools to play a man who had to literally and figuratively stand behind his woman.

Chemistry "is a funny thing to pin down, but he and I definitely had a very similar approach to these two people, and I think we wanted to create a very real marriage and one that was intimate and not too stiff and arch and try not to be swallowed up by the costume and the set," Blunt said. "It's always been something that's only about emotions and instincts and all of that. So I think you have to just remember that when you're creating a love story, whether you're in a bonnet or a pair of sweat pants, love is just what it is, you know?"

At 28, Friend, of course, is more familiar with the current Windsors than their 19th century ancestors. But the one good thing about playing a royal, regardless of when they ruled, is that you don't have to work hard to get the scoop on them.

"There is a huge wealth of information out there," said Friend, a veteran of other period films, including "Pride & Prejudice" and "Cheri." "And he's kind of an unsung hero. He's one of those guys that everyone's kind of loosely aware of maybe in

name, but you don't know that much about him—myself included prior to this project. And yet there are historians that are banging his drum, as it were, because some think he had more than a 50 percent share of ruling the nation. They call him the king without a crown. ... It's like when you know a cult band that no one has heard of."

There were no TMZ cameras patrolling the palace gates back in the day, but Friend still sees a lot of similarities between the old- and new-school royals.

"Weirdly, Victoria and Albert were like celebrities," he said. "Obviously, Princess Diana was the victim of a whole new level of celebrity attention, but that feeling of being watched in your private life as well as being on parade and on display in your public life—I think that must be and must have been really hellish because you're never off duty."

MIKI TURNER IS A
REDEYE SPECIAL
CONTRIBUTOR.

FAST-PAISED

The Young Victoria (PG)

Victoria (Emily Blunt) was only 18 when she took over the British throne, and many thought she was too young to rule. This dramatization sees Victoria confronted with a great deal of influence: John Conroy (Mark Strong) thinks he should lead; trusted advisor Lord Melbourne (Paul Bettany) potentially uses Victoria for his own political gain; and Prince Albert (Rupert Friend), who loves Victoria and hopes to one day become her husband.

The buzz: You're probably super-psyched for another costume drama biopic, right? We aren't either, but Blunt, who's a bit more attractive than the real Victoria, is very reliable, and hopefully "The Young Victoria" taps into the legacy of the longest-serving British monarch.

The verdict: Of course, the sets are lavish. Blunt also acquits herself nicely in a withdrawn role, and for a few minutes the film makes internal politics within the palace seem interesting. Mostly "The Young Victoria" is just an unfocused tale of royal fussiness—surrounded by a bland love story, which is then followed by a closing note about all the wonderful things Victoria went on to do.

It's presented as if to say, "By the way, here's why you should care about what you just slept through."

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Friend
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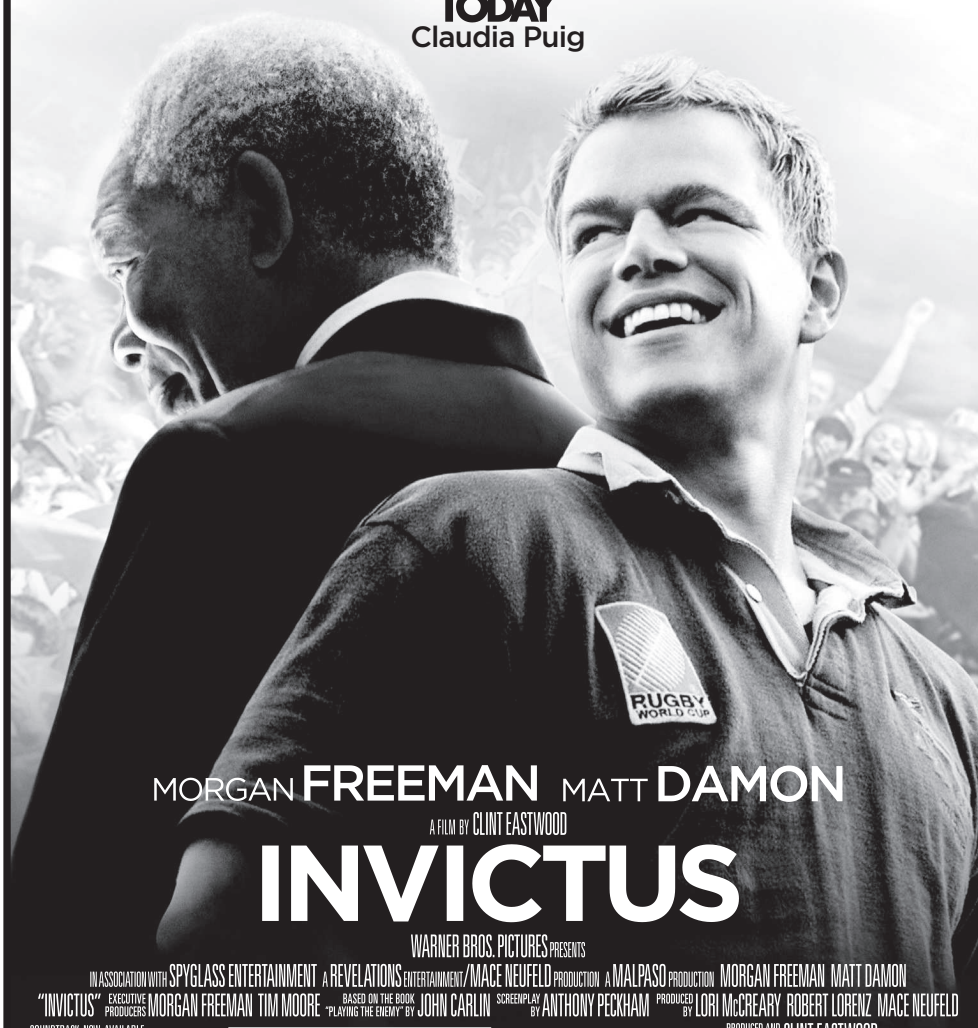
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Teen interest in 'Lovely Bones' a surprise

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD "The Lovely Bones" has all the adornments of a prestige drama aimed at adults. It was made by an Oscar-winning director, adapted from an acclaimed novel and features weighty subject matter.

Given that pedigree, Paramount Pictures was stunned to discover that the film's most promising target audience is teenage and college-aged girls.

Directed by Peter Jackson and based on Alice Sebold's best-selling 2002 novel, "The Lovely Bones" tells the tale of a 14-year-old girl who is raped and murdered and watches her family and killer from the afterlife.

Most people involved in the film originally thought it would primarily appeal to older moviegoers. But after test research on the movie, Paramount found there was a potentially hidden audience of females between ages 13 and 25.

That has led the studio to flip-flop its marketing strategy for the PG-13 film in hopes of tapping the same audience that propelled the "Twilight" movies to the box-office stratosphere.

"No one initially thought that 14- to 21-year-old girls would be the sweet spot," said Kevin Goetz, president of worldwide motion picture



Saoirse Ronan in 'The Lovely Bones' PARAMOUNT PICTURES

group for OTX, the research company that held a Nov. 19 screening of "Lovely Bones" in Kansas City, Mo., for teenage and college-aged girls. "They found the movie disturbing, but it didn't impede their enjoyment."

"Lovely Bones" exemplifies how studios sometimes believe they have a firm understanding of what they are selling but later are surprised when moviegoers in focus groups and early screenings weigh in with contrary opinions.

The unexpected interest among girls could prove a life saver when the movie opens nationwide Jan. 15, because adults so far appear lukewarm on the picture. Ticket sales from its first weekend at three theaters in L.A. and New York were underwhelming, reviews have been mostly negative and the movie received just one Golden Globe nomination—a sign it could be largely ignored at Oscar time.

Paramount will have to draw huge numbers

of teenage girls to make a financial success of the effects-laden film, on which it has roughly \$150 million in production, advertising and distribution costs at stake. That's why films targeted at a narrow demographic are typically produced at a much lower cost.

"Twilight" and its sequel "New Moon" are rare examples of movies that have grossed well above \$300 million worldwide without significant support from adults or young men.

While it remains to be seen how many young women will turn out for "The Lovely Bones," the Kansas City screening established that those who see it like the supernatural aspects and view it as a female empowerment tale.

The film's protagonist, played by Saoirse Ronan, helps her family cope with loss and solve her murder. In describing their visceral reaction, attendees used words like "suspenseful," "moving," "scary" and "exciting," Goetz said.

Paramount has designed an aggressive promotional campaign kicking off next week featuring TV spots that play up the movie's thriller elements on MTV and such popular teenage series as "Gossip Girl," "One Tree Hill" and "Glee."

Online, the studio is specifically targeting blogs dedicated to the "Twilight" series.

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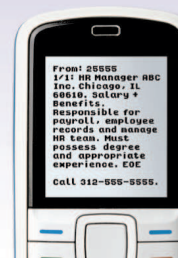
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Stay inside and have a DVD weekend

By Emily Rosenbaum Maka | REDEYE

It's the weekend before Christmas, the malls are filled with frenetic shoppers, you don't want to see "Avatar" because everyone else is and you've watched that old holiday chestnut "It's a Wonderful Life" a few too many times. Don't fret. Pick up some DVDs, adopt a bunker mentality and enjoy your escape weekend. Here are some options:

Political satire

Rent a dynamic duo of political satire: "Dr. Strangelove" and "In the Loop" (currently available only at Blockbuster; official release Jan. 12). Stanley Kubrick's "Strangelove" still packs a hilarious punch decades later. This year's "In the Loop" is the kind of chaotic political sendup Evelyn Waugh likely would be writing, were he still alive today. Pick your favorite lines after back-to-back viewings. A sample:



«**"Strangelove"** "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here; this is the War Room."
"Loop" "Twelve thousand troops. But that's not enough. That's the amount that are going to die. And at the end of a war you need some soldiers left, really, or else it looks like you've lost."

'Fringe' marathon and drinking game

If you missed the first season of this mesmerizing TV series, catch up now with a whole weekend of "Fringe" viewing. Dark matter, telekinesis, bio-engineered animals, alternate realities, experiments on children, strange visions and unexplained phenomena are perfect fare for those who like their holidays with a bit of weirdness.

Invite some friends over and play the unofficial "Fringe" drinking game. Here are the RedEye rules (there are several other versions floating around the Web. Could this be part of The Pattern?):

- 1** Every time the super-serious but sexy Olivia Dunham strips down to her underthings to get into the tank, do a shot of espresso.
- 2** Every time Peter Bishop makes a sarcastic remark about something his father, Walter, has done or said, down a whole beer.



- 3** Every time you spot an Observer, do a shot.
- 4** Every time Walter Bishop fondly recalls the times he did LSD, drink some absinthe.
- 5** Every time someone mentions The Pattern, stare off into space and take a long, slow drink.



I think I love you

If you aren't a complete cynic, opt for something that's clever and has some romance, but is not overly saccharine:



«**"The Princess Bride"** The fairy tale of Princess Buttercup and Westley invites multiple viewings over one's lifetime. Everyone in the room must join in during the "My name is Inigo Montoya" bit.

"High Fidelity" John Cusack tracks down ex-girlfriends to find out what went wrong. Jack Black steals every scene he's in. Best of all, it all happens in Chicago.

"Kissing Jessica Stein" This intelligent story of a neurotic woman who finds herself in a relationship with another woman, despite the fact that she's always dated guys, is charming and funny.
"Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet bicker, make up and do it all over again, and then try to erase each other from their memories, literally. Winslet is heartbreaking and her outrageous hair color is a character all its own.

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY		Handicapped Access	Digital Sound	Dolby Stereo	No Passes	Hearing - Impaired	
		G - General audience	PG - Parental guidance suggested	PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13			
		R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian					
600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC) 600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 888-AMC-4FUN Show times change daily	FORD CITY 14 (AMC) S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago 888-AMC-4FUN Show times change daily	PIPERS ALLEY (AMC) 1608 N. Wells, Chicago 888-AMC-4FUN Show times change daily					
AMC Select - The best specialty films <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar (PG-13) 12:30, 4:15, 7:45, 11:15 Did You Hear (PG-13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:30 Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:45 Invictus (PG-13) 10:15, 1:15, 4:20, 7:50, 10:50 Brothers (R) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 11:45, 2:45, 7:10, 10:10 The Blind Side (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15 2012 (PG-13) 11:00, 2:30, 6:15, 9:45 Christmas Carol (PG) 10:50, 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 	AMC Select - The best specialty films <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar (PG-13) 10:00, 11:45, 1:30, 3:15, 5:00, 7:00, 8:45, 10:30 Did You Hear (PG-13) 10:05, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15 Princess-Frog (G) 10:10, 11:15, 12:30, 1:50, 3:00, 4:20, 5:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:35, 10:30 Invictus (PG-13) 10:05, 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05 Armored (PG-13) 10:15, 11:10, 12:20, 1:25, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:25 Ninja Assassin (R) 10:35, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 Planet 51 (PG) 11:40, 1:50, 4:00 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 10:40, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20 AMC Select Precious: Novel (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20 The Blind Side (PG-13) 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00 2012 (PG-13) 6:20, 9:45 Christmas Carol (PG) 10:20, 12:45, 3:10, 5:25, 7:45, 10:10 						
LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK) 2828 North Clark St., Chicago (773) 509-4949	GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER 164 State Street 312-846-2800						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Victoria (PG) 12:10, 1:40, 2:30, 4:30, 6:05, 7:20, 8:45, 10:00 Fantastic Fox (PG) 1:50, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30 Broken Embraces (R) 1:00, 2:05, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:50 A Serious Man (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05 An Education (PG-13) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 Days-Sum (PG-13) 6:00 P.M. Into Tulum (R) 6:00, 8:00 What's (NR) 8:00 P.M. 						
CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES) 2600 N. Western Ave. (800) 326-3264 #1642	LOGAN THEATRE 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 10:30, 12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:30 Avatar (PG-13) 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Princess-Frog (G) 9:45, 11:20, 12:10, 2:00, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 6:50, 7:30, 9:10, 9:50 Armored (PG-13) 10:40, 1:20, 3:50, 6:10, 8:40, 11:00 Brothers (R) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:45 Ninja Assassin (R) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 The Blind Side (PG-13) 9:30, 12:30, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20 Planet 51 (PG) 10:00, 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 10:20, 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20 2012 (PG-13) 11:10, 3:15, 6:40, 10:10 Christmas Carol (PG) (Closed caption) 10:10, 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:40 Precious: Novel (R) 11:50, 2:30, 5:00, 8:15, 10:50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2012 (PG-13) 2:15, 5:25, 8:15 Planet 51 (PG) 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 Old Dogs (PG) 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:20 Christmas Carol (PG) 2:05, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 						
DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE) 4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago (773) 784-0893	MUSIC BOX 3733 N. Southport, Chicago (773) 871-6604						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precious: Novel (R) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 The Hurt Locker (R) 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Invictus (PG-13) 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 Brothers (R) 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's Wonderful (NR) 6:40 P.M. White Christmas (NR) 9:45 P.M. Cloud 9 (NR) 5:20, 7:30 Collapse (NR) 9:40 P.M. 						

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brothers (R) 10:50, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15, 12:45 Ninja Assassin (R) 11:15, 2:20, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10, 12:30 Old Dogs (PG) 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20, 12:40 The Blind Side (PG-13) 9:40, 12:30, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05, 12:55 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 9:45, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40, 12:35 2012 (PG-13) 9:50, 1:20, 4:45, 8:15, 11:50 Christmas Carol (PG) 10:40, 1:30, 3:50, 6:15, 9:00, 11:30 Precious: Novel (R) 10:20, 1:40, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:25 	WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES) 1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1641
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 Avatar (PG-13) 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Did You Hear (PG-13) 10:20, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50 Invictus (PG-13) 10:00, 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15 Me and Orson (PG-13) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10 Up in the Air (R) 11:15, 11:50, 2:00, 2:30, 4:50, 5:20, 7:40, 8:10, 10:20, 10:45 Brothers (R) 10:10, 12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40 The Blind Side (PG-13) 9:45, 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:40 	SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES) E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave. (800) 326-3264 #1646
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 Avatar (PG-13) 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Did You Hear (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10 Invictus (PG-13) 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:20, 7:10, 9:30, 10:15 Princess-Frog (G) 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:40, 7:30, 9:00, 9:50 Armored (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35 Ninja Assassin (R) 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:45 The Blind Side (PG-13) 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20 Planet 51 (PG) 1:20, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40 2012 (PG-13) 3:15, 6:45, 10:05 Christmas Carol (PG) 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25 	CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES) 4779 W. Cermak (800) 326-3264 #1644
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 Avatar (PG-13) 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Did You Hear (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10 Invictus (PG-13) 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:00, 6:20, 7:10, 9:30, 10:15 Princess-Frog (G) 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:40, 7:30, 9:00, 9:50 Armored (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35 Ninja Assassin (R) 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:45 The Blind Side (PG-13) 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20 Planet 51 (PG) 1:20, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40 2012 (PG-13) 3:15, 6:45, 10:05 Christmas Carol (PG) 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25 	CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) 7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie (800) 326-3264 #2309
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:10, 10:30, 12:01 Avatar (PG-13) 11:00, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 Did You Hear (PG-13) 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:25, 1:00 The Road (R) 10:10, 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30, 12:15 Invictus (PG-13) 10:00, 12:20, 1:15, 3:20, 4:15, 6:20, 7:20, 9:20, 10:35, 12:20 Princess-Frog (G) 11:20, 12:10, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:10, 6:50, 7:30, 9:10, 9:50, 11:40, 12:10 Armored (PG-13) 10:30, 12:50, 3:45, 6:05, 8:20, 10:40, 12:50 	

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION	
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago (312) 564-2104	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:15 Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 12:30 Did You Hear (PG-13) 10:50, 11:50, 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:10, 8:15, 9:50, 10:50 Young Victoria (PG) 11:15, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20 Invictus (PG-13) 10:10, 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45 Me and Orson (PG-13) 11:20, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40 Princess-Frog (G) 10:40, 1:20, 4:15, 6:50, 9:10 Up in the Air (R) 10:20, 11:10, 12:45, 1:30, 2:00, 3:40, 4:20, 5:00, 6:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:40, 10:10, 11:00 Up in the Air (R) 11:10, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 The Blind Side (PG-13) 10:00, 12:15, 1:00, 3:20, 4:10, 6:20, 7:15, 9:20, 10:15 C'mas Carol 3D (PG) 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:15, 9:00 	OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC) 1022 Lake Street 630-444-FILM #560
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 12:45, 3:10, 4:00, 6:20, 7:15, 9:30, 10:30 Did You Hear (PG-13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45 Princess-Frog (G) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Everybody (PG-13) 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 12:15, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30 The Blind Side (PG-13) 1:00, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35 	EVANSTON CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY) 1715 MAPLE AVE. (847) 492-0123
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avatar (PG-13) 12:35, 2:25, 4:15, 6:05, 7:55, 9:45 Avatar 3D (PG-13) 1:30, 5:10, 8:50 Avatar 3D (PG-13) 11:45, 3:20, 7:00, 10:40 Broken Embraces (R) 11:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 8:40, 10:10 Did You Hear (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05 Young Victoria (PG) 11:50, 2:20, 3:35, 4:50, 7:20, 9:00, 9:50 Christmas Carol (PG) 11:35 A.M. Armored (PG-13) 9:45 P.M. Brothers (R) 11:30, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00 Invictus (PG-13) 12:40, 2:35, 3:45, 5:35, 7:05, 8:35, 10:10 Precious: Novel (R) 12:55, 6:15 The Blind Side (PG-13) 11:40, 3:30, 7:10, 10:15 Fantastic Fox (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:05, 7:30 Princess-Frog (G) 11:55, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40 The Road (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:35, 10:20 Twilight: Moon (PG-13) 1:00, 7:10 Up in the Air (R) 11:45, 1:10, 2:30, 3:50, 4:55, 6:30, 7:40, 9:10, 10:20 	



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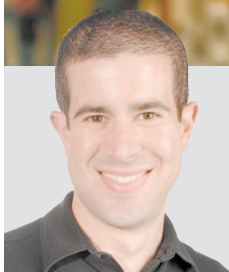
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Penelope Cruz in
'Broken Embraces'
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**BROKEN
EMBRACES (R)**



A sexy ode to film

Pedro Almodovar, Spain's king of melodrama, has hit a bit of a dry spell: His last two outings ("Volver," "Bad Education") failed to stir up much heat, passion or surprise. His latest is a small step back in the right direction. The film revolves around a blind writer (Lluís Homar) as he recalls the last film he ever made, when he fell in love with the star (Penelope Cruz) whose boyfriend (Jose Luis Gomez) was terribly jealous and controlling.

"Broken Embraces" doesn't offer much depth to any relationships—nothing but black-and-white situations here—but it is a lovely and sexy ode to movies and the way that what happens off-screen can influence what's on it. What it says about personal baggage and people changing into altered versions of themselves is less compelling than its portrait of the lively, heavily fragile nature of cinema.

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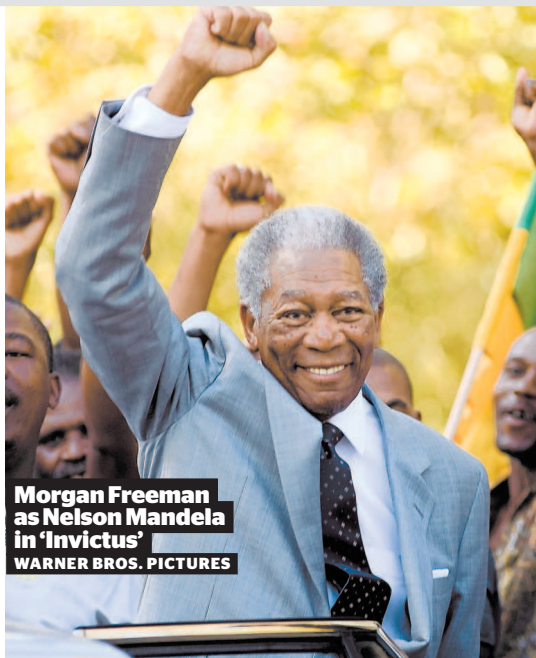
INVICTUS

@HannaSoltys

Eastwood is unstoppable! Uplifting, mesmerizing & inspirational story. GOOOOAAAL (or whatever Rugby players shout)

@coreybwhite

invictus was good but bad acting by supporting cast was distracting (eastwood strikes again ... read: gran torino). 2.5 stars



Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela in 'Invictus' WARNER BROS. PICTURES

THE ROAD

@txarkguy

the road was powerful due to viggo's performance. its power is in the question "would u off yourself or keep going?"

@ascorzo

I saw "The Road" this past weekend. In two words, it sucked. I kept waiting for something to happen and nothing ever did. Save your money

OTHER FLICKS

@bolbroe

I saw 2012. Had great expectations. But after the glorious special effects scenes story becomes vague. Sorry R. Emmerich :-)

@Hairy_Lime

Saw: "Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans." Good, weird fun. The most fun I've had at a theater in '09, with iguanas.

@nodaybuttoday08

Saw "An Education" with the family. Alfred Molina is amazing,

and movie's worth seeing, but we weren't completely blown away

@princesskate02

My hubby & I saw Astro Boy. Very cute! A bit long for little ones but good msg for kids. It's no WALL-E but was still good!

@MandyDime

Go See Good Hair. Exposed true feelings in black community about hair. As a Latina, I found the doc to be funny & informative.

@TinyPorkChop

Law Abiding Citizen is a "edge

of your seat suspenseful movie, very well planned out and a perfect pick of a cast" A+

@HaleyKaren

New York I Love You: An inconsistent, unrealistic hodgepodge of disjointed shorts that weren't touching, original, or clever.

@zagatam

"Brothers" was intense, action-packed, at times hard to watch, but the ending left me confused. It was a little inconclusive

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Seth Green's cult-favorite animated sketch series on Cartoon Network's "Adult Swim," which uses stop-motion animation, has a devoted following. It cleverly mocks pop culture, targeting commercials, entertainment, religion and political and celebrity culture. You might want to carve out an afternoon or evening to watch this release: There are three hours of special features, including deleted scenes, video blogs, footage from Comic-Cons and day-in-the-life featurettes. **THE WASHINGTON POST**



TV

'Frosty the Snowman' 7 p.m. Friday, CBS

The holiday mainstay is back to melt your heart—if he doesn't melt first. The venerable special airs just before "Frosty Returns." **CHUCK BARNEY, MCT**

BLOG

Not Exactly Rocket Science

scienceblogs.com/
notrocketscience

Ed Yong is a science writer in London who describes his blog as "a news site crossed with a popular science book crossed with an excitable, precocious and eloquent child jumping up and down and pointing at things that are cool." Recent posts covered topics as diverse as ADHD research, hammerhead sharks and genetics. It's a good blogroll addition for science enthusiasts who like their news with a level of detail somewhere between mainstream news outlets and research papers.

RACHEL SASLOW,
THE WASHINGTON POST

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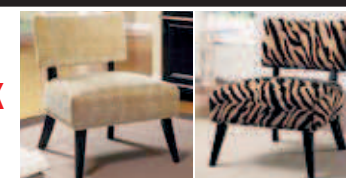
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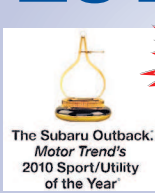
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Snuba time

Breathe underwater, without all the training required for scuba diving



AP FILE

By Greg Bluestein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROATAN, Honduras Breathing underwater was a strange sensation. It was even stranger because I've never been scuba-certified. Stranger yet that my wife, who is reluctant to even duck her head under water, was happily swimming 15 feet underwater behind me as we plumbed the depths on this island off the coast of Honduras.

We had discovered Snuba, a hybrid of snorkeling and scuba diving that was an exciting way to experience breathing underwater while not having to go through hard-core training. It has its limitations—namely, a 20-foot airline attached to a raft above—but for a new way to experience watery depths, it can't be beat.

Snuba has been around since at least the late 1980s. It still isn't offered in many places in the U.S. beyond a few beaches in California, Florida and Hawaii. But it's caught on in the Caribbean, where tourists go Snuba diving from Aruba to Turks and Caicos. Other destinations include Cancun, Mexico, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

My wife and I tried it in Roatan, Honduras. (The U.S. State Department lifted a travel alert to the country Dec. 8, five months after a coup there.) Our Snuba experience on this tropical island started with a training session on safety procedures. We then were outfitted with flippers, a weight belt, a mask and a regulator linked to a long, snaking tube. It was all surprisingly light, mostly because the tube is con-

nected to an oxygen tank that rests comfortably on a small raft.

We practiced for a few minutes in shallow water, getting a feel for our newfound ability to breathe underwater and the strange, almost tickling sensation we got when we inhaled. We were told to try our best to breathe normally, as our oxygen tank had only a 45-minute reservoir of air and gasping can deplete it more quickly. And we also were taught to hold our noses and breathe every few feet so we could equalize our pressure as we plummeted.

More info

Go to **snuba.com**. Snuba diving is offered in about 70 locations around the world, including Hawaii, Florida, California, the Caribbean and Cancun and Cozumel, Mexico. Prices range from \$45 to \$85, depending on location and what is included (transportation to site, photos, etc.).

The water wasn't that deep, so our 20-foot rope never seemed to block us from going deeper. It also was nice to know that even if the hose somehow malfunctioned, we still were shallow enough that we could make it back to the surface within a few seconds.

There were some problems, though. For one, you have to go the same pace as everyone else tethered to your raft.

The tubes also can be a hindrance. If you don't watch out while you're swimming, you could be part of an elaborate knot that must be untangled. And you can feel a tug at your mouthpiece if you're too far ahead or behind the others, or if a stiff wind or heavy current pulls the raft above.

But my biggest problem with Snuba is that it left me wanting more. I wanted to go faster, deeper and stay underwater longer. And my only cure might have to be graduating to the next level: scuba diving.

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THE SETUP: WITH THE FLURRY OF (MOSTLY UNVERIFIED) REPORTS THIS WEEK OF HIGH-PROFILE CELEBRITY BREAKUPS, WE ASK THE QUESTION: IS THE HOLIDAY SEASON AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO DUMP YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER?

Merry Christmas—now get out of my life



Why put off the inevitable?

I'm not an advocate of the holiday breakup, but sometimes it must be done. If the relationship is over, it's over, regardless of the date. I once broke up with someone on Dec. 20. The timing could

have been better, but honestly, I couldn't take it anymore. I woke up unable to exist one more minute in that relationship. As soon as I delivered the news, I regretted it. I knew I had ruined the holiday. I envisioned him on a sad, drunken bender (which may have happened whether or not we broke up). I thought I would mope on Christmas Eve, burst into tears at the Christmas dinner table and spend my New Year's Eve huddled in a dark corner. I was pleasantly surprised, however. I approached the holidays with zeal, and partied like an anvil had been lifted from my skull. It was the best Christmas gift I could have given myself.

THE GINA SPOT COLUMNIST GINA B IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



Make the break over the holiday break

The holidays are the best time for a breakup. It's especially good for celebs because their publicized breakup won't get as much press attention during the busy season. If you dump the

no-longer-special someone before the holidays, it offers the opportunity to have a support group of friends and family to help you absorb the fallout. It also leaves both of you free and clear to find a new lover on New Year's Eve and start the year fresh. Waiting until after the holidays is pointless because the entire week leading up to the deed will leave you miserable and thinking about having to drop the ax. And the object of your rejection will just look back and think, "That whole week was a lie!" Bonus: You also won't have to give a gift.

BOY ON BOYSTOWN COLUMNIST JASON STEELE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



It's gonna be a long winter

You have to be ultra-careful about breaking up over the holidays, a period that generally covers mid-December to Jan. 1. The problem is not the holidays themselves, but the months of January and

February that follow. Even perfectly happy, pleasant people tend to want to jump off a bridge during those months, especially in a city like Chicago where the cold, wind and snow make an eternity spent burning in the confines of hell seem cozily, snug-gily pleasant. If you're going to pull the trigger on a breakup in December, just be aware that the two worst months of the year will immediately follow. It will not only be too cold to find a new boyfriend or girlfriend, but even having sex with a complete stranger to get back at your ex will likely involve so many scarves, gloves and wool socks that it's really not even worth it. OFF THE MARKLEY COLUMNIST STEPHEN MARKLEY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

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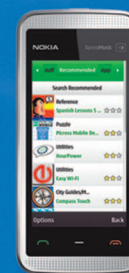
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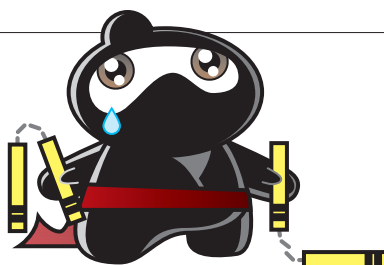
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

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THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

P	I	T	A		A	R	G	U	E		B	O	N	A
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N	E	N	E		L	O	N	E	L	I	N	E	S	S
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O	V	E	R		R	O	N	D	O		P	I	C	A
W	E	D	S		T	O	K	E	N		A	S	K	S

ACROSS

- 1 "... and Circumstance"
5 Madrid's nation
10 Therefore
14 Above
15 Vishnu devotee
16 Cat's cry
17 Path
18 Change slightly
19 Scourge
20 Of an earlier period
22 Embarrassed
24 Time of anticipation
25 Dubble Bubble gum maker
26 Substitute
29 Zsa Zsa, to Eva
30 Graceful in movement
34 Put in order
35 Writing tool
36 Positively charged particle
37 Insert
38 Left one's seat
40 Highest card
41 Wiggle room
43 Fall behind
44 Close noisily
45 Parable's lesson
46 Mont Blanc, for one
47 In a bashful way
48 Full of lather
50 Music from Jamaica
51 Pie or mousse
54 Largest city in Illinois
58 On the waves
59 Eagle's nest
61 Recognize
62 African nation
63 Yakety-yak
64 Crazy as a _
65 Aspirin, for one
66 Go in
67 Finishes

DOWN

- 1 "Sport of Kings"
2 Ice rink shape
3 Repair
4 Alleged motive
5 Humiliation
6 Heap

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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65					66						67			

- 7 Termite
8 High principles
9 Doctor's aide
10 Boycott
11 500-sheet pack of paper
12 Departed
13 Had debts
21 League
23 Listened
25 At last
26 "The Lord Is My Shepherd," for one
27 Roper's event
28 Command
29 Moment, briefly
31 "The Boot"
32 Town resident
33 Foe
35 Salary
36 Cribbage piece
38 Worth
39 Touch lightly
42 English toast to health
44 Hamper movements of
46 Toward the rear
47 Glide downhill
49 Curtain
50 Utter
51 Moist
52 Actor Morales
53 Broker's advice
54 Issue a traffic ticket to
55 Abbr. after many poems
56 Beneficial
57 Possesses
60 Plague carrier



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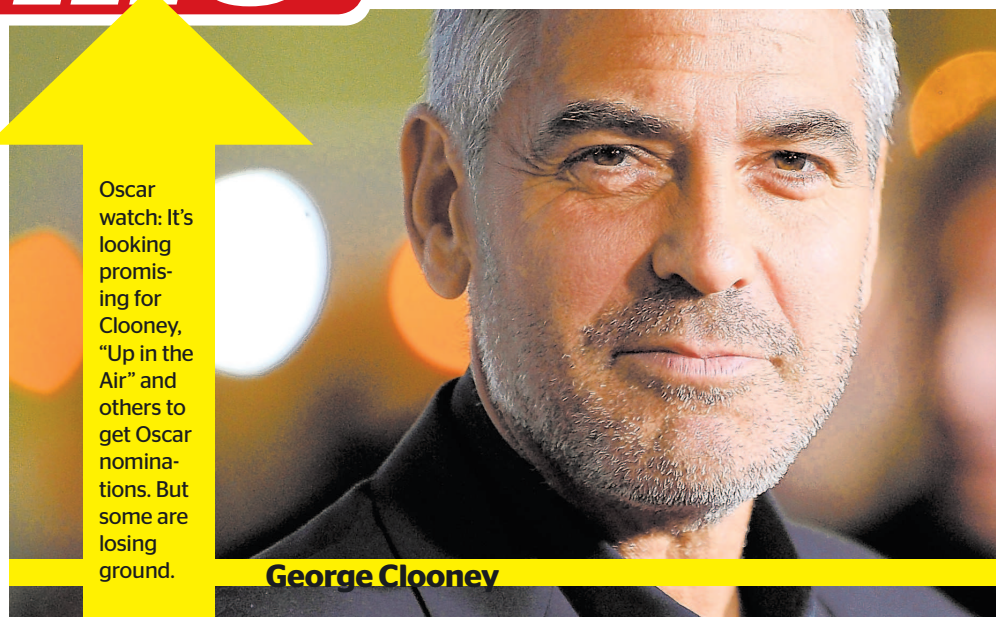
Gabourey Sidibe



Ben Foster



Sandra Bullock



Oscar watch: It's looking promising for Clooney, "Up in the Air" and others to get Oscar nominations. But some are losing ground.

George Clooney

'Up' ascends—but with a hitch

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD "Up in the Air," which announced itself as an awards season front-runner this week with six Golden Globe nominations, earned three nominations from the Screen Actors Guild on Thursday but didn't make the cut on the group's top award.

"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" and "Inglourious Basterds" joined "Up in the Air" in nabbing the most nods.

SAG handed individual nominations to the three main "Up" stars: George Clooney for lead actor and Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick for best supporting actress. But it kept the down-sizing dramedy off the shortlist for its best cast award, seen by many as SAG's version of best picture. Instead, the group nominated "Precious," "Inglourious Basterds" "The Hurt Locker," "Nine" and "An Education."

"Up" could face a hurdle. SAG nominees for best cast do deviate from the Academy Award nominees for best picture. But since 1995, the first year in which SAG handed out that prize, no movie omitted from the SAG best cast shortlist has won the Oscar for best picture.

With Thursday's nominations, "Precious," "Basterds" and "The Hurt Locker" continued their momentum toward Oscar's top 10. The other two nominees—"Nine" and "An Education"—are seen by some as bubble candidates for a best picture nomination, and the

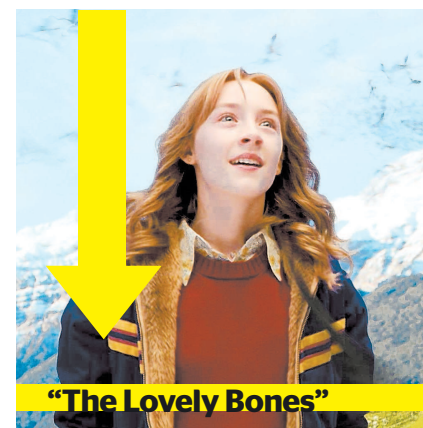
SAG nods are likely to improve their chances. "The Lovely Bones" continued its fall toward near-oblivion this awards season.

In the best actor category, Clooney joined three other Oscar front-runners: Colin Firth ("A Single Man"), Jeff Bridges ("Crazy Heart") and Morgan Freeman ("Invictus"). But Daniel Day-Lewis, who received a Globe nomination for Rob Marshall's musical "Nine," was left off the list, as was Globe nominee Tobey Maguire, seen as a longer shot for a best actor Oscar nomination. Ben Foster received a lot of critical love for "The Messenger," but was not on the SAG list. Jeremy Renner, star of the acclaimed "The Hurt Locker," received a nomination from his fellows actors, regaining Oscar momentum.

The best actress realm saw no big surprises, as Sandra Bullock ("The Blind Side") and Gabourey Sidibe ("Precious") dispelled what few doubts remained about their Oscar candidacies and joined favorites Meryl Streep ("Julie & Julia"), Carey Mulligan ("An Education") and Helen Mirren ("The Last Station") on the SAG list.



"Precious"



"The Lovely Bones"



"The Hurt Locker"



"Up in the Air"

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red hot



Rourke
PARAMOUNT
PICTURES

WHIP IT!

Robert Downey Jr. fans, this is the moment you've been waiting for—and it has nothing to do with “Sherlock Holmes.” The “Iron Man 2” trailer has hit the Internet. Joining Tony Stark (Downey) in the trailer are Gwyneth Paltrow, Samuel L. Jackson, Scarlett Johansson and Don Cheadle. But it's Mickey Rourke as Whiplash who steals the show. Sporting some seriously cool electrical whips attached to his arms, Rourke's character is clearly a villain you don't want to cross.



TomKat sing-along

What's David Beckham's idea of hell? Dinner with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes—with singing. “We were at dinner once with Tom and Katie ... and we sat there and everyone was like, ‘OK, let's play a music game; let's start a singing game!’” Beckham said Wednesday on “Lopez Tonight,” George Lopez's TBS late-night show, according to [usmagazine.com](#). “I kind of get uncomfortable with that.” So would we, Becks.

\$1 million The amount of money Alec Baldwin has donated to his alma mater—New York University—to start a drama scholarship, The New York Times reports.



A dark past

Cate Blanchett wasn't always the fresh-faced actress we see today. Years ago, she'd go to bed with her makeup on, she told [stylelist.com](#). “And I went through a big gothic phase, so my pillow was always covered in black mascara and white pancake makeup,” Blanchett said.

Holidays on ice

Diddy's mixing things up—behind the bar. He might be best known for making music, but that's not all he makes. “I'm what you call a mixologist,” he told [people.com](#). His go-to holiday cocktail features vodka, white cranberry and peach juice and is best served over ice.



Blame it on the pain

Kevin Gillespie, who recently finished third on “Top Chef: Las Vegas,” told USA Today's Pop Candy blog that he and his wife were going through a divorce as the show's season ended. But, good news: Gillespie said he will be keeping his beard, which has gained a following.

Cudi cuts out

Kid Cudi is calling it quits with Lady Gaga—professionally, that is. The singer's camp released a statement Thursday saying he would take “an early leave of absence” from her tour. Whether this has anything to do with Cudi's reported altercation with a concert-goer last weekend was not addressed.

